

黒の魔王

V

恋する魔女

外伝「アッシュ・トゥ・アッシュ」

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FREEDOM
NOVEL

Kuro no Maou

– The Black Demon King –

- Volume 5 -

Irz in Flames

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CHAPTER 58

MARCH OF GREED

The time goes back to several days back to the time Kurono has his reunion with Sariel. The Crusaders had departed to occupy the villages.

The centre of the army was the the private army of either the church or a nobility departed from the home country.

The already occupied Daedalus, at the time of occupation, tried to skillfully tell about the situation to village heads of other villages.

And the Crusaders stationed troops, they would be able to get the villages both in name purpose and their real purpose. If the remnants of defeated army won't start a rebellion, then blood won't be spilled.

But everything doesn't work so easy in real life. The Crusaders composed of many purposes individually, acted just as Kurono suspected.

Stealing, Destroying, Killing, the Crusaders did the cruel acts under the name of divine punishment and continued doing it without any remorse and hesitation.

From now on numerous villages within Daedalus territory will be massacred and looted and in the end destroyed. Furthermore the one village walking on the cruel path of fate with those villages was Irz village which Kurono loved.

Along with the sunset in the Gallahad mountain range, the army of people wearing white costumes start marching.

Wearing cross around their necks, wearing chainmail under their long white surcoats, donning broadswords and spears in hand is the infantry equipment of Crusaders.

They formed a line and marched, the one leading them is a young priest sitting on a conspicuous black horse named Kievan.

The appearance with white skin, blond hair and blue eyes, is very common in Syncrea Republic.

As he is a white magician, his robe is decorated with various magic items and it's appearance stands out.

"It has gotten considerably dark."

Running parallel to Kievan's horse, his aide Corvus speaks.

"What is it? Are you scared about marching at night time?"

"No, the highway is also maintained well, I doubt there will be problems."

"Yeah, it's nicely done even though they are demon races."

Inside Kievan's speech there is obviously scorn included.

There are many countries in Pandora continent and they without exception call humans along with other races collectively as 'people/person'.

But however, in Syncrea Republic it is common for all races to be denominated differently, and the believers of cross discriminate others with their ideals of *'human have the supremacy'*.

It was natural for Kievan a fundamentalist of Cross Religion to have hostility and evil intention towards all those living within Pandora continent. [ET: wut is he, huh? Doesn't he know that people like him always get their ass beaten]

"According to plan, we will reach Irz village soon."

"No need to rush, just to gain control of a small village in the countryside, we have plenty of time of 1 whole night."

The mission given to Kievan's force was to seize control of Irz Village, but it wasn't something important that it was to be done fast.

Because, this mission of Crusaders going along the north-west highway seizing control of various other villages was not a job for being conspicuous neither the results were important. On this Kievan said "Please leave it to me!" and that's how this missions was forcefully established.

A normal priest won't burden himself with such a needless job, but Kievan who made it to the priest's position in young age the so-called 'elite', couldn't remain patient and wait for an opportunity for him to show his deeds.

In short, he was eager to do good deeds. [ET: Good deed here mean the deeds that seem on good to him.]

The Crusaders current situation was to possess all of the large Daedalus territory. When he thought that the soldiers and clergymen will take away all the good opportunity for accomplishments, it couldn't be helped that he panicked.

"With this, I can now stand with the priests with one accomplishment. If I can get a much bigger accomplishment, then Cardinal Mercedes will also remember me, isn't that right?

"Yes"

"By the time this expedition is concluded, I would at the very least be promoted to a High Priest. Naturally, I would grant you, my right hand, a suitable position too... In addition after that, depending on my accomplishments the seat of Archbishop, no, the Cardinal will also not be a dream anymore. This mission will become a great stepping stone towards my big goal-" [ET: Police! Psychopath escaped & Spotted in Pandora Continent !]

Kievan expresses a daring smile. At the same time, in the front of highway faint lights of Irz village was present.

17th day of Shinyou Month, Late at Night.

"Uue, did I drink too much."(incompetent)

The members of Irz Blader as usual don't speak a words towards him due to sympathy.

"Nyarko-san is looking at you Nino."(Aten)

"Don't lie Aten, today is an off day so she hasn't come to Guild today"(incompetent)

"Why do you even know that?"(Aten)

“It’s because I heard it the previous time we talked!”(incompetent)

“Ah, that time when you tried to ask her out for date, but in the end, you got scared and couldn’t ask her–”(aten)

“Don’t REMIND ME!”(really REALLY big incompetent)

“Well it’s good, we were worried that Nino had changed to the rumoured ‘STALKER’ class.”(aten)

“What the hell is a stalker.”(Incompetent stalker)

“It seems like it’s used for the creepy ass males who chase after a girl without being noticed and observe them the whole day and night”(Harry)

“That is neither a class nor a job”(incompetent creepy ass stalker)

“They even say that those creepy asses, even scavenge through the girl’s garbage. It’s really creepy ah scary~~”(Harry)

“Eeh, that really is creepy and sick”(Aten)

Aten and Harry look with worried eyes towards Nino

“Don’t look at me with those eyes! I haven’t done it yet!”(.....[I don’t have words to name this ‘person?’])

“What do you mean by not yet!?”(Aten)

“AH no, right now, just left the mouth, it’s that, erm—”(:|)

Aten and Harry get away from Nino, even the always cool Claydor also left his seat.

“If you do perverted deeds towards guild receptionist, the party will also be dissolved.”(Aten)

“Worst case, we will be banned from entering the guild and have to take collective responsibility”(Harry)

“That will be a problem”(Aten)

“You bastards what are you worrying about!! I won’t do something like that!!” (:| :|) [ET: will he remain convicted on his statement yes or no, find out more by scrolling down.]

Nino stomps the table with *bam* and stands up in anger.

“Calm down Nino, It’ll be bad if we get seen by Nyarko-san”(Harry)

“Like I’m saying Nyarko ain’t here!”(:|:|:|)

“Is there something about with me?” (Nyarko) {ET: sorry for many of my notes, but O.O. this idk wut species got doomed}

The moment the voice entered Nino’s ears, his tail and ear get started and stand up

That was the reaction when a werecat is Surprised!!

“Wh,Why, are you here?”(:|)

““Why you say, isn’t it because it’s my work.”(Nyarko)

“I know that much!” Nino couldn’t say that.

“Ah, now that I think about it, my sister said to change her shift with Nyarko-san as she was ill.”(Harry)

“Harry! Tell me that thing first.”(let’s go back to incompetent ass hole)

“Do tell senpai, to get better soon~”(Nyarko)

“Yes, I’ll tell her”(Harry)

“Now, Nino-san”(Nyarko)

“Y,Yeah!? what is it!” (Nino)

Aten quietly stares at the Nino who looks really pitiable with his voice quavering.

“It’s alright to make noise at the completion of quest, but please try to refrain from being too excited that you would unsheathe a sword.”(Nyarko)

“Ha,Hahi.....”(.....)

Looking at Nino dejected and lowering his tail and ears, even members decided to follow him up.

“Well, Nyarko-san we both drank too much ,It’s not Nino’s fault can’t you forgive him”(Harry)

“Ah, sorry, I was going with the flow and—”

Somehow fixing up the situation, Nyarko left towards the counter.

But Nino’s high spirits were falling down to death, as he showed his uncool side to Nyarko. [ET: was he even cool to begin with!?)

“It’s over. Let’s head back for today.”(.....)

Nino speaks after drinking a cup of alcohol.

His mood and face color both are not good looking.

“Nn, well, Don’t worry about it too much”(Harry)

“It’s alright, you would have forgotten it by tomorrow, right?”(Aten)

Nino left his seat while staggering.

“Shall I send you home?”(Claydor)

In contrast to Nino, Claydor stands up firmly and steadily.

“Yeah, sorry for all the troubles.”(Nino [I felt bad for him.])

“Don’t worry about it.”(Claydor)

Both left a lot of silver coins on the table and left the guild.

“Fuu~, the night wind feels good.”

While saying such words, Nino and Claydor walk.

It's not unusual for them to be going back home together , it's normal in their everyday life.

It was supposed to be like that, but Claydor notices something different from usual first.

"Isn't it a little noisy ?"

"An?"

Now that he said, there definitely are voices of people.

Once they know that something is happening they can easily find it's source. With curiosity they both walked towards the source of noises.

That was the door of the village where they had just completed the quest.

"What happened here? Did some monster come here?"(Nino)

In the vicinity of the gate, the vigilante corps were running with torch in one hand.

Nino gets that something bad is occurring here, and loses his intoxication and looks towards the village with the same seriousness that he shows in dungeon.

Claydor who also felt the same as Nino, finds his father's figure between the vigilantes and calls out to him.

"Pops, what happened here?"(Claydore)

"Oo, Claydor and Nino are here too."(claydor's pops)

"Uncles, it feels dangerous around here"(Nino)

If they both were kids, they would've been sent home in this situation but, right now they both are fine adult who contribute for the peace of the village.

Grint as a vigilante corp leader, as a father, looks towards his son and his best friend , and told about the current situation without any deceit.

“Some unknown army is approaching the village through the north-west highway.”(grint)

“What!?”(....)

“Are they bandits?”(Claydor)

“We still don’t know, we have send out the fast runners for scouting but they have yet to return.”(Glint)

Shivers run down both their spines.

Even though they are rank 2 adventurers, they have passed the stage of a rookie and their instinct of sniffing out danger can’t be compared to a normal person.

“I’ll go and inform Harry and Aten. Claydor, you stare here with uncle and guard the gate.”

“Understood.”

“I request you Nino, there is no time for giving a request to the guild right now, so appeal to as many adventurers you can for cooperating in this case of emergency.”(Glint)

“Leave it to me!”(NINO!)

Nino like a gust of wind runs through the road he was just walking playfully.

“Damn it! I can only feel something bad’s gonna occur goddamnit!!”(Nino)

CHAPTER 59

IRZ IN FLAMES (1)

Head Shione had already lied down on her bed but the moment one of the vigilantes knocked on the door, she jumped back to her feet.

The village itself had not faced any incident for several decades now, but she had experienced emergency calling incidents countless times in her long life.

The village head called the person inside and heard the situation in her usual composed manner.

“.....I see. Then I’ll leave towards the gate at once.”(shione)

Even after hearing something shocking like a mysterious army marching towards here, she did not show any signs of astonishment or bewilderment on her face.

She hadn’t been living for so long just for show after all. She understood that even in emergencies, the head should always stay calm and composed first.

But still, just because no emotions were shown outside, didn’t mean that her heart was also calm.

As she prayed that no blood of the villagers be spilled, she put on her aged dark green robe and left the house with her long staff that had an emerald coloured stone embedded on its tip.

That robe and staff were battle equipment that she hadn’t used in a long time.

“Eh.....What does that mean?”

Nino, who should have returned with Claydor, suddenly returned back with a changed expression which surprised Nyarko and others, but without paying that any attention, he briefly yet precisely explained the situation to them, or rather, shouted in a loud voice so that every guild member could hear it.

Nyarko remained dumbfounded but Aten and Harry, and all other adventurers that were sitting and drinking, immediately started moving.

“Nyarko, hurry up and contact the Guild Leader and round up every adventurer here in Irz village guild!”

“I, I’m on it!!”

On Nino’s words, Nyarko ran towards the counter.

“Ah, maybe I should have asked her to run away.”(nino)

“What are you saying? Nyarko-san is also a member of the Guild. During evacuation, she would be second last to do so.”(harry)

‘And the last ones would be us’. Nino understood that without even saying.

“But, this time I’m really getting a bad——”

DODON!!

At that moment, a load thunderous sound resounded in the guild, no, in the whole village.

“This certainly feels dangerous.”

“The sound came from the direction of the gate, right?”

“Shit! Hurry up and let’s go! Aten, Harry!!”

Each and everyone picked up their weapons and started running towards the gate.

“Anathema Hammer – Destruction Hammer.”

A Union magic used by 10 magicians together in cooperation, as its name suggested, smashed the Irz village gate into smithereens.

The vigilantes standing near the gate were blown away and instantly killed.

The village head who was coming towards the gate to talk with the mysterious army was protected from the blast by the vigilante corps leader by using his own body as a shield and somehow escaped being heavily injured.

Cries of pain and agony of the injured resounded in the dark night.

Even before the dust of the blast settled, the Crusaders dressed in white and with the man on a horse as its leader, boldly entered the Irz Village.

“Hm, there are quite a lot of demons here.”

Atop his horse, Kievan said as he looked towards the Vigilante corps with a scowl.

Among them, he saw an old elf woman with a long staff come towards him along with a giant lizardman.

He stopped the soldiers behind him, who were about to fire arrows, with a single wave of his hand. Along with his aide, Corvus, Kievan took a step towards them.

The surroundings were still noisy, but Irz village representative Shione along with vigilante corps leader Grint and Crusaders representative Priest Kievan and Deacon Corvus were still silent.

But, one side was due to fear and anxiety, and the other due to contempt and scorn. There was clear difference in their mental states.

“Are you the head of this village?” (Kievan)

The first to speak was Kievan, impolitely while looking down on Shione from the horse.

“Yes, I’m Irz village’s—-“

“Don’t talk anymore. I’ll get corrupted if I talk to demons any more. What I’m about to say are the words of God. I’ll say only once so listen carefully.

We, the holy Crusaders have killed the evil dragon Gaevinal and have liberated this land of Daedalus. And as per the wishes of our great Lord, this land will be offered to him.”

At those words, the Village head could only stiffen while widening her eyes.

Basically, the Dragon King Gaevinal had been killed by the human army called Crusaders and have captured Daedalus.

She knew they were fighting humans, but it was hard to believe that the powerful Daedalus army led by the Dragon King himself had been defeated.

“Oh my, it seems you don’t even understand what you have to do. It can’t be helped so I’ll explain in words you low-witted demons can also understand.

Quickly bring all gold, silver, weapons, provisions, everything in the village and give it to us Crusaders.

Also, if there are any humans then bring them as well, I’ll specially treat them as slaves and let them live.”

A chill ran down Shione’s spine.

If they were thieves, then their eyes would be shining with greed right now. But in his eyes, Shione could only see a clear contempt. This man does not even have the guilt of ‘stealing’ things from others. He is already certain that everything here is his possession.

And it seems her instincts were unfortunately correct as well.

In other words, there was no scope for negotiations.

Shione decided, while apologizing to the Irz village that was about to be destroyed and to the people who were about to die.

“.....Grint, ring the bell.”

Grint clearly heard those simple words. At the same time, she shouted towards the sky.

“Ring the bell!!!”

GOONG! *GOONG!!*

The bell resounded throughout the village. It's meaning was known by everyone in the Irz village.

Emergency situation and evacuate. That was the meaning behind the bell.

"Tch, don't cause us trouble."

Kievan said as he brought down his raised hand.

The moment the bell rang, he took it as a show of resistance and instantly ordered to attack.

Behind him, arrows were nocked, spears were taken in stance, chants of magic began, and the signal of battle was given.

And, a battle had started in the place Kievan stood as well. In front of him, stood Grint whose body had been pierced with numerous arrows.

"Fuun!"

Grint removed the arrows in his body forcefully with his bare hands.

The arrows had pierced even through the gaps in the scales but he defended against not with steel like scales and flesh.

Grint who belonged to one of the sturdiest race and was also a trained soldier, his life would not be in danger just because of some arrows.

"Demons really are uselessly sturdy. Truly repulsive."

Kievan said with a bored expression. And with a shout Grint jumped towards him.

A lizardman who was much powerful than a human, could display charging strength equal to that of a whole human troop with his own body. And, currently, he was using it to its fullest.

"ooooooo—- Charge!!"

With the activation of a martial art skill, an attack that could already pierce steel was powered up even further. And the spear that was going in a straight line to pierce Kievan was,

“Slash.”

It was reflected by the swing of a long sword.

To defend Kievan, Corvus had stepped in between.

“Is physical strength enhancement – Full Burst necessary?”(Kievan)

“No, something of that level, I can deal with my martial arts alone.”(Corvus)

Even after taking the powerful blow of the lizardman warrior Grint, Corvus replied calmly.

“I see, ضوء لم ننع الأب يضن الدرع — Lux Shield.”

The moment Kievan deployed his defensive magic, the shield of light was struck with a blade of wind.

“To think that even that old hag could fight. These demons really are troublesome.”

In front him, Shione stood who had fired the Wind Blade – Air Sagita.

“Too dangerous. I’ve decided Corvus, the demons of this village——“

Kievan laughed. Rather than getting gold, rather than making women into his slaves, killing evil demons was a much happier thing for pious follower of the church.

“—Annihilate them all.”

“Shit, Shiiiiitt!!!”

Drenched in sweat and blood, with his blade that had started losing its sharpness, he stabbed his sword once more in another one of the soldiers dressed in white.

Nino had already cut apart 10 of them. But their numbers were only increasing instead of decreasing. And to top it off, everything was in flames now.

There was not a single soldier who could use a single martial art, but the difference in numbers was too big to cover with just his skills.

If it goes on like this, it's only a matter of time before he will be surrounded by flames and enemies.

Nino, after the bell had been rung, was now running towards the gate that led to the north-west highway while defeating enemies that were coming up one by one.

But, maybe because the gate had been blown away, soldiers were appearing from beyond the darkness of the night.

"Nino! We can't go on like this! Let's return to the guild!"

You don't even have to tell me that, but,

"Idiot! Claydor is still near the gate!"

"Calm down Nino. The vigilantes are also there near the gate, then we don't have to go to reinforce them unnecessarily——"

I know that as well. The vigilante corps, that is the strongest force of the village, is already at the gate. It's not like much would change even if just we joined them.

No, maybe, attacked by such a big number, they might have been annihilated already.

".....let's go back to the guild."

If we can't go to the gate then, the next thing we should do is regroup and collaborate with other adventurers and help in the evacuation of civilians.

Like that he could save people like Nyarko or anyone else.

"Sorry, Claydor....."

Looking back towards the burning gate one last time, Nino and the others started to go back the way they came.

CHAPTER 60

IRZ IN FLAMES (2)

The gate towards the north-west highway was currently filled with the highest amount of people since the establishment of Irz Village.

In front of the overwhelming numbers of Crusaders, there's only a limit to how much time 50-some vigilantes could buy for them.

There hasn't been much time since the gate was destroyed, nevertheless, the most any vigilante could do was just keep on standing somehow.

People who were alive, that is Shione, Grint, and his son Claydor and some more vigilantes were fighting while protecting each other's blind spot. But, there was no way something like that could stop the Crusaders from entering the village. And steadily, many Crusaders had already reached the centre of the village.

Already, most of the village was on fire but the ones fighting here did not even have the time to even notice that.

"Oi, how long are you going to take to take care of that demon?"

"——ha, I'm truly sorry."

In front of Corvus who had just answered, a goblin, who had been cut together with his leather armor from the shoulder, had fallen.

As Corvus stood on the frontlines while fighting, he also gave out orders to avoid as many casualties of his soldiers as possible.

Whenever a soldier got injured or fatigued, he instantly made him switch with another one in the back. That way, he had reduced the number of casualties greatly even against the physically stronger demons.

Of course, for the vigilantes, it was situation where they felt that none of their attacks were working and the enemy soldiers were unhurt.

If the battle continues for 10 more minutes, sooner or later, a casualty will arise and then it'll become easier to annihilate them.

"No, that's enough."(Kievan)

But, not even wanting to wait for that little time, Kievan decided to remove this resistance with his own hands.

"Get back."(Kievan)

The moment Kievan said that, the soldiers that were clashing swords, instantly retreated, and the circle of soldiers surrounding the villagers grew bigger.

"Evil demons, receive God's judgement under my holy radiance."(Kievan)

He spoke some pompous and exaggerated words but he is seriously thinking of killing the evil demons in place of God.

The Elf, Lizardman, and people of other beastmen races that were continuing to resist in front of him, just what kind of difference did they have from humans? What was supposed to be their sin?

But the believers of the church believed, that any other race other than humans was nothing but a sin in front of their God.

كلمة وعيه سرية م بكرة محامية — Concentration enhancement – Conses Boost."

قوية عناصر من العديد من ال بداية هيروشي ك يكو — elemental enhancement – Element Boost."

The magicians serving Kievan invoked enhancement magics. Under the effect concentration enhancement, the chant was shortened and more amount of magical energy could be compressed. And element enhancement turned the 'light' of the magic about to be activated much stronger.

"ال نار ان تشار الاب يض ي دمر حريق مشرق"

After just of a few seconds of chanting, the 'holy light' was finally released.

"Giant flash cannon – Lux Force Blast!"

Under the current Model Magic classified as an advanced level magic, it was a ranged attack magic of the light primary colour magical energy.

A magic that could have normally killed even a rank 3 monster, under the effects of the enhancements, became an even stronger torrent of light and attacked the vigilante corps.

“بیر جدار الجمالیر هیروشی ال ریاح دوامات ک یکو منعت” – strong wind protective wall – Air Wall Defence!!”

The village head mobilised the magical energy that had started to wither away, and deployed a shield covering everyone to protect them from the deadly light magic.

But she knew that it was impossible to defend against a advance level magic with an intermediate level magic. In the first place, a shield of air was at disadvantage against a light based attack magic in terms of elemental affinity as well.

As a result, the village head's shield, and the reflexive action to defend themselves taken by the vigilante corps members, was not even able to half the damage released by Kievan's magic.

“GYAAAAAAHHHHHAAAA—-“

Kievan had already turned away as the cries of death rose and without a change in emotions asked.

“Oi, there seems to be another place where resistance is taking place, right?”(Kievan)

Having burned the vigilante corps to cinders with a single attack, he had already forgotten about them and moved to the next problem that required his attention.

The soldiers around him also seemed either happy or relieved that the demons' resistance had been ended.

“Corvus, it seems some adventurers are cooped up in the guild to defend themselves. Let's go and quickly crush them.”

“YES!”

On Kievan's words, Corvus finally looked away from the corpse of the lizardman he had been fighting till now. He was the only one that was still thinking about the deaths of the demons.

("Why did that lizardman warrior tried to protect that other lizardman? Do mere demons even have the will to abandon themselves to protect another?")

The figure of the burnt corpse that lied on each other had been etched in his mind. But Corvus had no way of knowing that those two had been actually father and son.

"Don't fucking joke with me! As if I'll accept something like surrendering to them!"

Nino's angry voice resounded inside the Guild.

"You're the one who is joking around, look at your surroundings——"

Currently, the guild's building had been completely surrounded by the Crusaders.

"——Even being thrown inside a goblin's nest naked would have been much better.

So, how are we supposed to fight against them?!"

Another adventurer who was in the guild shouted back.

In the guild, adventurers that belonged to Irz village and those who just happened to be here were currently of different opinions.

The former were ready to resist till they die and the latter were insisting on surrendering.

Nino and the others who had a skirmish with the vanguard of the Crusaders had been suppressed through numbers making them retreat back inside the guild and then encircled them to trap them there.

Thus, a little time to argue had been given to them.

"You bastards can go fight with your life on the line because this your home village, but it's not the same for us, we have no obligation to get ourselves killed here!"

"What the hell did you just say!!?"

“Pl, Please stop!!”

Nino who had grabbed the human adventurer was stopped by Nyarko.

Soon other adventurers also moved in to pull them apart.

The human adventurer then looked at Nyarko and said.

“Oi, the guild leader here is already dead isn’t he? Then there’s no order for a compulsory quest either so we have no obligation to fight.

Well even if there was an order, rather than fighting such a battle, I would pay 100 gold or even 1000 gold to cancel it though.”

“uu.....ye., yes.....”

Nyarko had gone towards the guild leader’s house as per Nino’s instruction before the bell for evacuation had rung.

But in the middle of bringing the guild leader here, they were found by the Crusaders who had already started appearing here and there, and only Nyarko, who was fast due to being from a beast race, could safely make it back to the guild.

Although it couldn’t be helped considering the situation, Nyarko had been lamenting the fact that she had abandoned the guild leader in between.

“Do you understand? We don’t have a reason to fight, don’t try and stop us.”

“.....Shit.”

Nino was also an adventurer. He could understand the man’s logic.

“Then go, I’ll stay here and fight.”

“No need for you to tell me, I’ll go.”

The human adventurer threw his sword on the table since he was about to surrender.

Along with him, almost half of the adventurers in the guild threw away their weapons and moved towards the entrance of the guild.

“Wait.”(nino)

“What, still got any problem?”

“.....take Nyarko with you.”(nino)

Nyarko was about to say something but was stopped by Nino’s gaze.

“We’re the only ones that need to fight and die.”(nino)

“Nino-san....”(nyarko)

“It’ll be fine. If you obediently surrender, they won’t kill you. Also, even if you are caught, Kurono’ll probably come to save you.”

That’s not the place where you take the name of another man—Aten, who was standing beside him, thought but did not actually speak.

But, if it was Kurono, he’d probably fight together with us, she thought.

“Re, really, all of us should surrender together—“

To Nyarko’s appeal, Nino smiled wryly and answered.

“Ah, I’ve already killed 10 of their men, they won’t let me live anyway.”

When she looked towards Aten and Harry she again received wry smiles.

“Bu, but—“

“Come on, hurry up and get going, you don’t know when the enemy will burst in!”

This situation will obviously not continue forever. If the group outside decided to start their assault, they will lose their chance to surrender as well.

“See ya, Nyarko.”

“.....yes, Nino-san, everyone,.....may the fortunes of war be with you.”

With big tears flowing from those eyes, Nyarko left with that group of adventurers.

And, Nino will soon realize and regret that this was the worst decision ever.

Kievan moved through the group of white soldiers as if going through a white colored wave.

In front of him was the biggest building in this village, the adventurer guild.

“What happened, why are you not attacking it already?”

Kievan asked the commanding officer of the troops standing in front of the entrance with a slight irritation in his voice.

“Yes, the enemy has multiple magicians who can use mid level magic and there were many soldiers with high skill as well, so attacking with just soldiers would be reckless and danger——“

“Basically, you got scared, is it?”(Kievan)

On being glared from above, the commanding officer hanged his head with a – “I’m extremely sorry.”

“Well whatever. The adventurers of the demons are strong people who possess brutal strength that they can hunt monsters with only a few people, or so I have heard——“

As he remembered the figure of the elf or the lizardman that he had sent to oblivion, he understood that if that sturdy body of the demons was further supplemented by strong magic, they could show abilities stronger than humans.

“Well even I want to avoid useless deaths in my army. I’ll value your decision to wait for the reinforcement of magicians.”

Thank you very much – as he said that the commanding officer finally breathed a sigh in relief thankful that he had avoided the anger of a Priest. But soon he saw Kievan’s look filled with anger again as he(Kievan) noticed something.

“What is that?”(Kievan)

In his line of sight were a few people that were slightly armoured but without weapons and were raising their hands and shouting something.

They were currently standing exactly in the middle of the space between the Crusaders and the entrance of the guild.

Kievan was had asked, but even without listening the answer, he was well aware of what it meant.

“Yes, they are ones that just came out of the guild saying that they are surrendering—
—“

“You fool! I can see that as well!! Why haven’t you killed them yet?!”(Kievan)

“Th, th, that’sbecause among them there are a few that look like humans so.”

“Kill them.”

“bu, but, the headquarters had ordered to take humans as prisoners.”

“Shut up! They are demons! And heretics that live along with demons! Their existence itself is blasphemy towards god! They must be dealt with immediately!!”

For Kievan, the very fact that there was a human mixed with them was unforgivable.

The humans living in Pandora and the humans living in Arc continent, he might have claimed them to be another type to demons if they had looked different just like Asians looked different from Western people in Kurono’s world.

But in truth there was no difference in the appearance of humans in this world. One could tell that someone was a human in a single glance.

Therefore, humans who were the supreme creation of god, to have lived along with demons, that fact alone was discomfoting for Kievan.

As the commanding officer had said, if he were to follow the orders of HQ, the humans who had surrendered were to be taken as at least prisoners of war.

But, for Kievan it was more important to adhere to the teachings of his god rather than follow the orders of HQ. Thus, he took the decision without even a single hesitation.

“Ready your aim—-“

Kievan moved even further as he gave the order.

Under the orders of the highest position in this place, the soldiers quickly took action.

Bowmen nocked their arrows, magicians started chants for attack magics.

And in front of the Crusaders who were clearly taking offensive measures, the group that had left the guild to surrender were overcome with fright.

“O, Oi!? Please wait—-“

The adventurer spoke which sounded more like screaming but, Kievan only wanted to kill these defenceless people instantly. He would never listen to their pleas.

“Fire.”

CHAPTER 61

IRZ IN FLAMES (3)

The scene that occurred in front of him, Nino, no every adventurer of Irz village that had remained in the guild, were unable to understand what happened for a second.

The moment a man on a horse, probably the commander, came, every one suddenly lifted and readied their weapons.

Without even trying to listen to their pleas, the army fired flame magic and arrows upon them.

Arrows pierced their bodies, and the moment they fell on their knees, innumerable fire arrows – Ignis Sagita rushed in and burnt them all to smithereens.

That included Nino's crush, who he just talked to, Nyarko as well.

The always cheerful poster girl of the Guild, her lovable figure was nowhere to be found.

"A a———"

Surprise, sadness, anger, all sorts of emotions swirled inside their heads, and nobody was able to say a single word.

"Uaaaaaaaaaaaaahhh!!!!!"

All that left the throat was a violent and furious scream.

The adventurers here finally realized that the opponents neither had any compassion nor did they leave any scope for negotiation, they were simply murdering demons.

And we will also be killed by those demons, but,

("that guy")

The commander that ordered to attack those defenceless people who had surrendered.

("just that guy")

""""I'll kill him!!""""

Adventurers twisted with anger and madness, picked their weapons and jumped outside.

Without thinking even a single bit about what would happen next, about their own deaths, they simply swore in their hearts to kill that commander of the demons.

It was daybreak.

The light of the sun shined on the Irz village but the black smoke covering it had not yet cleared away.

Underneath that cloud of smoke, was a painting of hell filled with the stench of corpses created in just a single night. In the burnt down houses, piles of corpses had been created, but compared to a few hours ago during midnight, it had become a mountain of corpses.

A mountain of corpses was created, meaning not a single death cry resounded in the village anymore.

Currently the army was hurriedly collecting the valuables and also searching for demons that might have hidden till now.

This situation was seen by Priest Kievan, who was also the commander of this force, with a somewhat satisfied look from the window of the conference room on the top floor of the guild.

"And, what did you want to talk about?"

Kievan looked back at his aide, Corvus, who was standing in attention.

"Yes. Near this village there exists a place called as Fairy Garden."

"Fairy is it?.....Then"

"It is as you think. Most probably there is a fountain of holy water there."

Holy water was a famous item that every follower of the church was aware of.

Water that holds the power of god. Strictly speaking, it was fresh water that held large quantities of white magical energy.

Normally, it is a magic item made by white magicians for Priest and above rank, but occasionally, places where it naturally exists also appear.

In the Arc continent, places where holy water 'naturally' appears is treated with extreme importance.

White magic was equal to the power of god but a place where it is naturally appearing meant that a power other than the god's was also working there. Basically it was a holy place.

But, the religious reasons aside, being able to collect large amount of holy water had many benefits.

Holy water was required in rituals, if used with white magic, it could display various effects as well.

From a magician to a simple believer, everyone had many uses for it.

Thus, a place where holy water naturally came was equal to finding a gold vein for the church.

Kievan who was seeking achievements in the conquest of Pandora continent, he had no reason to leave it alone.

"It seems to be called the fountain of light around here, and is located in the deepest portions of the forest, also it seems any race other than fairies are not allowed to enter."(Corvus)

"hmm, then there is no doubt."(Kievan)

Places where holy water comes forth is a place fairies live is a legend even the children in Arc continent know about.

And, that it was not just a legend but an actual fact, Kievan had once read it somewhere.

“I believe we should quickly depart to secure it.”(Corvus)

“Corvus, I’ll leave this case to you. Take those necessary for the search party from among the force.”(Kievan)

“Thank you very much, but, I’ll end up taking most of the magicians. Would that be fine?”

“Of course, Swords won’t work much against fairies after all. Most of them have healed up too. As long as my two disciples are here, it’ll be more than enough. I don’t care if you take all the rest of them. It’s an important matter after all.”

“I understand. I shall definitely gain control over that place.”

Both Kievan and Corvus knew that they would need to fight the fairies living there.

In the Republic, compared to other demons, the feelings of contempt towards fairies was still common even though they looked pretty. But the fairies held much more magical energy than humans.

If you underestimate them, you would be attacked by magics of various elements and will be pathetically blown to pieces.

But if they were to use trained magicians, and gather a big force as well, humans would not lose to fairies who are not used to fighting.

And, Kievan judged that the numbers required could be obtained from the force he had.

“Oh right, who did you hear this info from——”(Kievan)

“A man named Kische, he used to have an item shop in the village.”(Corvus)

“Ah, deal with him as required, alright?”

“.....but he is a human, is that fine?”

“Nobody will buy a man in his middle-ages, right? He is of no use. Above all, I can’t let a fiendish heretic who interacted with dwarfs to stay alive. It’s disgusting.”

“Yes, it is as you say.”

“Oh well. I’ll give the orders to deal with the man and his family. You should start towards the securing of the holy water.”

Acknowledging, Corvus left the place. Kievan looked outside the window again and smiled faintly.

Beneath him, in the centre of the village, a line of wooden crosses were standing.

On the crosses, foolish ‘demons’ who went against god, that is Nino and the other Irz village adventurers’ corpses were crucified as an example and warning.

The mountain of corpses was tragic already, but they were ones to have been burned and buried. It was much better that being stuck on a cross as an example.

It was truly the death filled painting of hell itself, but Kievan it was nothing more than the first step towards his bright shining future.

The subjugation of Irz village, although a few casualties were taken, had been completed successfully and on top of it, finding holy water was an extremely big bonus.

Things were moving so well that he truly believed that he had been blessed by God.

Thus a smile, a smile had naturally come on his face.

Kievan, with a satisfied mood, made the sign of cross in front of his chest, and gave a prayer.

“Let my faith be seen by the heavens—-“

CHAPTER 62

MADNESS/BERSERK

Halfway on the highway to Irz village, I saw a black cloud rising in front of me.

“Shit, they set the village on fire!”(kuroono)

Although I couldn’t actually see whether the village was really burning or not, but there was no other reason for such a black cloud that I could think of.

Seeing that abnormality, I put more strength in my legs to run even faster.

At that time, I heard the sound of flock of birds flying away from within the forest on my left.

Lots of birds lived in the forest and it was very natural for a flock to fly together but, the number of birds I was currently seeing was a bit too big to be natural.

“Kuroono!”(lily)

Lily who was in my hood, pulled on my robe.

“What happened, Lily?”

“It’s trouble, the fountain is——“

Stopping my legs, I tried to listen carefully to what she was saying.

Before I could hear what she was trying to say, I instantly understood it the moment I saw a cloud of smoke rise from the forest as well.

“Shit, have the Crusaders approached the fountain of light as well!?”

Why would they go there? Are they thinking that place has some treasure?

Lily jumped out from the hood, and starts running towards the forest.

“Ah, wait!!”

Even if Lily had been banished from the fountain of light, I know she still treasures it.

I don't exactly know what does the words 'Divine protection of the Queen' means for the fairies except that it makes the land dense with magical energy. But considering that fairies had disallowed any other race to come in, I can somewhat understand it.

The fountain of light, if it any other race comes in there or destroys it, the magical effect of the 'Divine protection of the Queen' would most likely disappear from that land.

Anyway, it's true that Lily and other fairies have to somehow prevent the invasion in some way or the other.

The Crusaders must have invaded the fountain of light with some objective and must have battled with fairies there. That should be the reason behind that smoke.

I don't have any reason to stop Lily from going; in fact I want to go assist her instead.

But, the smoke of battle is rising not just from the fountain of light but also from the village as well. I can't just leave that either.

"Lily will go to the fountain of light. Kurono should go towards the village."(lily)

".....is that fine?"(kurono)

The most important thing for me is the safety of Lily after all.

I realized just now, but I was pushing myself due to anger and impatience from the fact that the village was under attack but in the process I was exposing not just myself but also Lily to danger.

Of course, I'm not going to step back now, I'll definitely protect Lily.

But, letting Lily face the Crusaders alone is——

"It's fine! Believe in Lily!"(lily)

Lily is my partner, not someone I have to one-sidedly protect.

If she is asking me to believe in her, then I'll do what she says.

“Got it. But don’t do anything rash.”(kuroono)

“Yes, Kuroono too.”(lily)

“n.....yeah, I know.”(kuroono)

That’s right, I promised Lily that I won’t do something reckless like challenging Sariel again after all.

“I don’t know how many Crusaders are there but considering they are moving as an army, it won’t be a number we can deal with alone. The moment we are done with our work, retreat quickly and we’ll regroup at Kuar village’s guild.”(kuroono)

“Un!”

Without exchanging anymore words, we ran towards our objectives.

Just what kind of hell was waiting for me, at that time I didn’t even have the composure to think about it.

All the houses built a bit separated from the village were either burnt down to ashes or were still being swallowed by fire.

On the highway, a large amount of blood was splashed here and there but not a single body could be seen. ‘The people who had bled so much had been carried away and were being treated right now’—I tried to cling on such wishful thinking.

But, the putrid smell of corpses in the surrounding utterly destroyed my wish.

The smell of corpses was coming from beyond the gate, from the centre of the village.

It proved to me that what was waiting for me beyond that fence was an unchangeable fact that a lot of lives had been taken.

“hah.....hah.....”

My legs finally stopped running at full speed, and I was walking unsteadily like a feeble patient on the highway.

Until now, I had seen a lot of deaths, in fact, I myself had killed many.

In front of the dragon, in front of Sariel, my legs would shiver with fear always. But then what is this that I feel in front of this scenery of the village painted in blood and flames? What kind of fear is this?

“What, the hell.....”

This village, this Irz village was, my only place of rest not connected to any fighting.

Why has that turned into this blood reeking place now?

I can't think. Something like this, I won't acknowledge, I won't believe it—— as I stood there dumbfounded, I wonder how much time had passed.

Suddenly, seeing a certain scene, my legs stopped. It was a white soldier coming out of a house that had miraculously not caught fire.

That soldier was happily humming while holding something shining, probably silver coins, in his left hand.

After him, 2 more soldiers carrying a filled box also came out, again with happy faces.

The soldiers placed the box in the carriage like vehicle that was standing in front of the house. At that moment, a weirdly big *dosun* sound resounded from it.

The three soldiers were saying something to each other about the small door of the house which couldn't be entered without bending, and the 3 of them entered the house once again.

And the moment they came out again, inside my head that was dumbfounded and could not recognize reality, I felt something break and something snapped.

I finally became aware of the scene in front of me.

The three soldiers were carrying the corpses of goblins that were wearing plain clothes.

My ears caught some fragments of what the soldiers were saying.

“This was a miss—— only the child of a filthy goblin is here.”

“—if it was an elf woman then at least I could have enjoyed more.”

“We got money so whatever——-“

And, even roughly than the box, they threw the corpses on the wagon.

Those corpses belonged to Vats-san who greeted me every morning and his family.

“aaa.....”

The Irz village I wanted to protect, seeing the deaths of the people living there,

“uooooaoaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!!!”

I went into a mad rage.

Yes, I went completely mad.

After all, I finally realized that I had been too late.

In my left hand, the cursed hatchet [tsujigiri] had already appeared.

The feelings of hatred that I had suppressed with my blackening were flowing inside my head like a surging wave.

Normally, I would have reflexively resisted against that torrent of twisted feelings, but surprisingly it felt comfortable right now instead.

I couldn't differentiate whether this was my hatred or the hatchet's curse anymore.

But it ordered my body to move.

To kill every 'enemy' within my sight.

.

.

.

Lily sprinted towards the fountain of light located in the depths of fairy garden.

The term sprinting might be a little incorrect though. After all Lily who had the body like that of an infant, even if she enhanced her legs with magic like Kurono, she still would not be able to produce an effect like him.

Currently, Lily's body was covered with a sphere of light. With Fairy barrier – Oracle Shield activated, Lily was jumping like a grasshopper in high speed.

Jumping and crossing obstacles like fallen trees and rocks with ease, Lily looked like a white ball bouncing around.

And with a speed much faster than any human, Lily could feel the magical energy around her body getting denser with her body as she moved closer towards the fountain of light.

Normally, sensing Lily come this close, the other fairies would come to stop her but right now the figure of those shining small girls was nowhere to be seen.

Just a while back, the distant thunder like sound generated due to the use of an attack magic was the reason behind this.

The Crusaders that were advancing towards the fountain had been intercepted by the fairies.

In case, humans are allowed to invade to the 'centre' of the fountain, as Kurono had expected, the forest would lose the [Divine Protection of the Fairy Queen].

In that case, fairies will no longer be born here, and it would be similar to lose their hometown for fairies.

They must protect their home, the place where they were born, and the sacred land that has the divine protection of the queen.

Thus Lily ran, flew, hurriedly.

Quickly run towards her fellow fairies, and use her Extra magic, that was even stronger than normal fairies, and drive the humans away to protect this place.—
Lily was thinking only about that.

But, the moment the density of magical energy crossed a certain level, that is, when Lily stepped into the place where the queen's divine protection was strongest, a change occurred in Lily.

"Protect....."

Lily who had been moving like a bullet instantly decelerated.

".....this place?"

Lily who was now only walking, the fairy barrier around her had already disappeared. Instead her body itself began to shine stronger.

"fufu.....how foolish."

With every step she took, she literally became 'bigger'.

Her limbs became longer, her chest swelled and became bigger, from the baby like body, it turned into a slender, curved, feminine body.

From a 'cute' child, she turned, no, grew into a 'beautiful' girl.

But, rather than her body, what changed more was her mind.

Lily took another step, her body growth had stopped but the change in her mind continued.

Her thoughts became clearer, but became more complex and at the same time her emotions, present situation, its advantages and disadvantages, what she could do, what she couldn't, what should she do and what she shouldn't——- When she finally stopped walking, the changes in Lily had all finally ended.

That was the true body of the girl that possessed flawless and absolute beauty as well as overwhelming magical energy and knowledge about her Extra magic.

An environment so rich with magical energy, that it allowed Lily to attain this form. This was also a part of the [Divine Protection of the Fairy Queen] that the fountain of light possessed.

As long as she was inside this 'divine protection', Lily could stay in this form forever.

“fufufu——-“

Outside she could only attain this body once during every full moon. Beauty that could make any man's breath away. She had only shown her pretty expression to even Kurono as well but,

“ahahahaha!!”

The current Lily had an extremely violent smile.

“What kind of idiot would protect this place and those little bastards!?”

Something cruel like this could never be thought by the child like Lily but the current her definitely would.

The baby Lily, as her appearance, only had a pure heart, but returning to her original form, having the emotions, heart and thinking ability returned back to her, she had a cunning brain like that of a human and even had her own greed and desires unlike a fairy.

“ahaha, this is the best chance. With this opportunity, ——“

Kurono had not realized that the most fearsome thing about Lily in her adult form was not her use of incredible magic but her heart that possessed both good and evil.

“-let the fountain of light be completely destroyed.”

CHAPTER 63

FOUNTAIN OF LIGHT (1)

That moment, the fight against the human army and the fairies stopped for a moment and the fairies return hurriedly towards the center of fountain of light.

“Lily.....what is that sham-fairy creature doing?”

The leader of the fairies of the fountain of light takes the lead of other fairies and flies off.

Unlike Lily those fairies are from the real fairy tribe and can fly with the two pair of wings on their back.

The sight of the light orbs flying through the trees and flowers of forest is so beautiful that even the people from this world with magic will also be deeply moved.

However, the true feelings of the the fairies themselves are worrying due to an emergency situation and their chest is about to burst from fright and anxiety.

“Just a little more—”

After passing through the forest, the fairies rush out towards the small fountain present in front of them.

This small fountain is the so-called “Fountain of Light”

Although the name has “Of Light”, in truth it is not radiating due to some effect from magic.

It is only sparkling due to the sunlight from the sky shining on the water surface. Too natural for such a majestic name.

But, in the vicinity of the fountain is thick density of magical power, so much that even a non-magician can sense it.

Due to that, this place that is located in the inner side of forest with a small fountain; it is truly a holy place with mystical feeling that can be felt through the mind and body.

And, standing in the middle of that fountain was 'her'.

"Lily!"

In a really hateful voice, the leader of fairies called her name.

Lily has a body unbecoming of a fairy, in addition to it she is wearing clothes like a person, the black dress Kurono gave her, looking at her like that she gets angry.

"What are you doing here! You should know the situation right now!?"

Normally, she should have been fighting against the humans who were trying to invade here. She without a doubt emits hostility towards Lily floating elegantly in the center of fountain.

That is definitely not something to point towards the person she will fight together with.

Even though Lily is half magic beast, she also possess the fairies Telepathy ability, therefore Lily must have felt the animosity flowing from her and the surrounding fairies.

But Lily answers with a nonchalant face.

"Yes, it's tough, the human bastards came attacking her in groups. I wonder will happen if they come her—"

"Don't speak anymore than that! There are somethings you can say and you can't say!"

"This lands divine protection would be lost" even for fairies it was hard to forgive her for saying such a thing.

"Really, well whatever. Can you turn those humans back with just your forces?"

"Th, That is—"

“They have considerable amount of magicians prepared, and it doesn’t seem like the other party is not accustomed to fights. You can’t send them back in fear with just single shots, can you?”

“I know that much!”

“Un, you know right without me you will ‘LOSE’”

Lily words hit right at spot.

Though the fairies are blessed low in the mind department and they only play all the time, but even they have the intellect to judge to that degree.

“Tha, That’s right—Lily, I admit that we don’t stand a chance against those numbers of humans without you.”

“Un, so what?”

Lily grins, though it was without any ill intention, it’s enough to get the leader in a rage.

“What do you mean ‘so what’!? The fountain of light is in danger! So hurry up and fight against those annoying human bastards!”

“Eeeh~ what is with that sort of speaking? I doubt it’s the way to request to someone? That’s why you can’t make a living out of township shrine meeting.”

“Wha—-”

The fairies are at a loss of words.

“What the hell are ya sayin!? You an idiot to speak such sick jokes at a time like this! Hurry and fight, protect this place!”

“You’re annoying, shut up for a bit. Calm down and think how you fairies expelled me out of here when I was born. This might be a birthplace and holy ground to you but it ain’t of much importance to me.”

“What are you saying, isn’t the holy ground an absolute thing for fairies, are you really thinking about it!?”

“for the fairies’ right. The ones who expelled me saying ‘*You’re no damn fairy*’ are you guys, right?”

“That is—”

“Aa, well I don’t give a shit about it. It’s not like I have a complex for not being a pure fairy and I’m not even thinking about becoming one. It’s just that the half-human half-demon race me has different sense of values than you fairies.....”

Lily once again smiles.

“And don’t you think that when asking people you have say ‘PLEASE’ with your whole heart?”

“Wha, What are.....’please’ you say?”

“That’s right, isn’t that important, I also don’t want to fight for you guys like it’s natural. Look, it will be better if you bow your head fast, the humans are near, right?”

The current Lily is in an advantage position and can sense the magical power of the Crusader in a considerable scope.

Even though it can’t be seen with naked eyes, but Lily can sense them shortening their distance towards the spring while being precautions.

Though the fairies don’t have the sensing ability on par with Lily but given the current situation they can’t say that her words are lies.

Normally, the fairies who don’t do much thinking, start racking their brains.

They are racking their brains between the choices of not bowing before a sham-fairy due to their ego or bow their head and save their birthplace, the fountain of light.

It’s obvious what is more important here, but the problem was bowing their heads to someone who was neither human nor fairy.

After a moment of silence, the fairies finally speak.

“.....ase”

“Eh, Wha~t?”

Lily without changing her smiling face speaks in a lively voice.

“Please”

“I can’t hear clearly.”

““I request you. ‘please’ save the fountain of light!””

The sadness-filled voice of fairies, echoes within the fountain of light.

Lily after hearing that, replies with a bigger smile from before.

“Ufufu, Don’t want to♪”

In an instant, silence spreads as if the the time has frozen.

The leader of fairies, speaks with her face down and shoulder quivering.

“H,Ho, How can.....”

“I just said it, that this place ain’t of importance to me.”

“Tha, That’s why we requested you, properly”

“Un, but I never said I would fight even if you requested me.”

Lily didn’t break her smile, in her eyes the happiness was overflowing.

“I will definitely not fight to protect this place, that’s why, give up already~”

Upon the colds words by Lily, the fairies finally understood her true nature.

“Wa, wait, how can you.....”

“*I don’t care even if we wipe out we will fight*’ or so if you’re thinking you free to do so, I won’t stop you.”

“Wait!? Please, I’m sorry for everything! Please fight, PLEASE!!”

Without any shame and honor, the crying fairy clapped her hands as if to kill some insect.

The fairies of the fountain of light gathered here can only choose between either asking Lily for help or break down while crying.

After watching such expressions for some time, Lily speaks.

“Ah, right, you’re gonna be destroyed at any rate, so I’m gonna take the ‘Red Crystal Sphere **Queen Beryl**’ for myself as well, ‘kay?”

The moment after hearing those words, the time for fairies once again stopped.

The “**Queen Beryl**” Lily declared to take, is the reason the fountain of light is full of magical power and it’s the source of divine protection deployed on this land by ‘Fairy Queen’s divine protection.’ It is a magic item, no, an artifact.

The ‘**Queen Beryl**’ is enshrined at the bottom of fountain in an altar.

That’s why, from that center the protection spreads in concentric circles and there is abundance of magical power in the surrounding area.

However, it’s not like if you place this Queen Beryl anywhere, it will make that place into a holy ground where fairies are born.

Unless there is ‘Ley Line’ filled with magical power flowing under the ground along with other magic-like conditions in union, the holy ground won’t be made, and without the complicated magic equation used by ‘God’ the effect of holy ground won’t be started.

In short, whether it be human or fairy, if they take the Queen Beryl from the altar, the complicated magic casted will stop and the holy ground will be destroyed.

If that happens, the magical power in the surroundings will eventually vanish and the fountain will turn into a natural fountain found at any place.

In other words, the fact she declared to take the Queen Beryl for herself, meant that she was going to destroy the holy ground by her hands, like throwing off the request from before.

“Lily! Have you gone mad!?”

“Don’t speak such rude things. The Queen Beryl is the perfect artifact for me to draw out magical power, isn’t it normal for me to take it if it’s gonna help me in future?”

Queen Beryl is not naturally the main item needed for the development of holy ground, but it’s just the key item that is needed.

If just the fairy queen hadn’t used it in creation of holy ground, it worth is only for it’s vast amount of magical power that resides in it.

Naturally, just because of that it is named as artifact, but it is something very important within this world.

“I won’t let you do that!”

All the fairies at once deploy the Oracle Shield and emit bloodlust towards Lily.

On the order of the leader, the several hundred elementary level Sagita will attack the slender Lily.

Naturally, Lily doesn’t even twitch while knowing it and speaks to the the fairies easily.

“Do you guys think you can win against me?”

Lily’s two pair of wings on her back start flickering, and she deploys her oracle shield.

Her barrier is more powerful and more bright than the barrier deployed by any other fairy, the difference in levels is obvious.

“Do you guys really think, you can stop me?”

Just like when Kurono uses the Bullet Arts, Lily suspends many white bullets in her surroundings.

These each white bullets, have the explosion power to blast off the fairies along with their shields.

Lily makes the exact number of white bullets as of the number of fairies present here.

“You see, I hate this place, I hate you all too. That’s why I will try to wipe out everything using this opportunity. But if you try to escape from here throwing away your pride and self-respect, I won’t chase you and won’t even shoot you from the back. Because you all also didn’t meddle with me when I left here, so I will also give you all that much of mercy.”

All the fairies start trembling.

Lily is serious, they can’t persuade her here, and have no means of stopping the humans coming after them.

They cannot protect the holy ground anymore.

All that left is, whether they will live or die.

“The reason I have been honestly protecting this place from monsters and letting you all live was because I wanted it.”

When Lily is away from the fountain she changes to the little girl form, and the resentment she had felt in her original form is vanished, even if it is not, the little Lily’s brain is not capable of thinking such complex emotions, otherwise she would be afraid of the cruel end the revenge would bring and had never gotten revenge on them.

However, if she had gone to fountain of light on the night of full moon, she could’ve massacred the fairies and destroyed the holy ground. In the end, she never did such thing and never thought to do it.

“Ah, don’t get wrong ideas, I’m just penting out my frustration of being expelled out of here. There isn’t any deep meaning behind the act itself and will neither have any in my lifetime. The only times I thought to protect this place and protect you people is only when I’m a child. The point is, that instead of making problems with you guys it was whole lot easier to not make any problems for you. But you see—-”

While speaking such, the fairies who couldn’t who couldn’t read Lily’s emotions till now due to a strong Mind Protect casted on her, suddenly broke and the emotions flowed into the fairies.

“I, have got a person I love now.” [ET: NOOOO~~~ my Lily!!!!]

That feeling had the image something hot, passionate and adhesion like.

Those emotions were like a slimey hot lava like feeling pouring inside the fairies.

Sure enough, the fairies gave thought to these feelings, and neither one of them thought that it was a pure hearted love struck heart feeling

“Since that person came, my sense of values changed, priorities changed, my world changed. You know my everyday became fun—-”

“.....That human”

The leader of fairies standing in front of Lily mutters.

When she recalls, she remember a filthy looking man stuffed inside an apple box fell from the sky inside the forest.

“Ah, now that I think about it, you were also there when I met Kurono. Ufufu, you now know the person I love, au, I’m so embarrassed.”

The appearance of Lily, hiding her blushed face and swinging her head, can’t look anything other than a love struck young girl.

And it is not the appearance the one would show who is trying to wipe out the fairies life and birthplace.

Due to the really out-of-place actions, the fairies can only feel weird.

“I and Kurono, will live forever and ever with each other. That was the plan but looks like some bugs interfered. You fairies who live away from the the society probably won’t know, that the human bastards that are coming here are the invaders known as “Crusaders” and have come from different continent. Being chased to the place I live, I also have the same feeling as you people. And, Kurono hates those human bastards in white uniform to death, he will definitely kill many of them. Ufufufu so coool~~.”

“Lily.....what are you trying to say.”

Mixing up serious matter and the matter of the person she loves,the topic of Lily’s talk is derailed.

The fairies understand it without even wanting to, that, the Lily who has become in the young girl form can do logical reasoning but is not able to because she is infatuated with the man named as Kurono to a hell lot of extent.

“Ah, ehm, In short, the reason I’m taking the Queen Beryl is because it will help me in future, that is something I’ve decided by thinking about the future of Kurono and mine. First of all, by the hands of Crusaders the Irz village, no, the whole territory of Daedalus will be occupied. But the Crusaders won’t be satisfied with that, and will try to conquer the whole Pandora continent. Those bastards have come here to offer the Pandora continent to their so-called god “White God” just because he wanted it. From now on, no matter where we run, we will eventually run into them , at that time the thing called ‘my power’ is important, right? You see I will protect Kurono with this power until he massacres the Crusaders, only I will protect him!”

“.....”

The fairies gave up speaking even a word now.

“I wish for Queen Beryl because I need power. Though due to your “Divine Protection” will be lost, at any rate it will be destroyed by the hands of crusaders, so you won’t reject my idea, right? On the contrary, I will am relieved that the thing I hate the most will be destroyed. Now then, my talk is over, so what will you people do?”

She bluntly asks, as the fairies by now must have decided their actions.

“I have told you this much, everyone will silently move out of my way, right?”

The only thing Lily told them was purely her feelings, she didn’t persuade the fairies at all.

But Lily, didn’t have any splendid determination, she only had the a twisted love bearing inside her, it was obvious there is no chance to persuade her by the fairies’ side.

From the start, the fairies can’t win against a serious Lily, that is something they understood instinctively, they didn’t have any choice in the first place at all.

Either escape from here, or ‘needlessly’ fight against Lily and die here.

They have already decided on their answer.

The fairies grieve and while crying, leaving the place one by one.

“That is good, you know, it’s not like you will die if the holy ground is destroyed. It’s all good if the fairies keep playing around the hills and fields around the area, like dimwitted brats, Ahaha ”

“—Lily”

“Nh, you were still here?”

Many fairies have already escaped towards the horizon while Lily was seeing them off, but the leader of fairies was still standing in front of her.

There are 9 fairies surrounding the leader.

“Do you wanna die?”(lily)

Lily’s tone of voice grows deep, while, the fairies present are assaulted by bloodlust by Lily for the first time.

The fairies freeze in fear and don’t even try to budge a bit.

“I won’t forgive you! DIEEeeEEE”(fairy leader)

The fairies, at once release the attack magic towards Lily.

““Lux Sagita””

The chant-less lower grade attack magic of fairies, is their Extra magic.

Each fairy deploys 5 arrows, total of 50 light arrows deployed by the 10 fairies fly towards Lily.

DoDoDoN!

Great Flash and Explosions occur.

The Lux Sagita does not deals damage with the explosions, but it melts the target with it’s high heat and drills into the target.

Even so the reason Explosions occur because the arrows collide with the Oracle Shield of Lily which causes the two magical powers to clash and explode.

They also don't think they will be able to defeat Lily with this, while predicting Lily's attack, the fairies spread out on the command of Leader.

However, those actions are of totally no use.

The fairies do know that Lily is strong, but they don't know exactly how strong she is and what sort of magic she uses.

After all, they have never fought against Lily even once.

Even though they understand that launching 10 Lux Sagita at the same time is totally easy for Lily, but they don't know that they all have automatic tracking that even Sariel couldn't dodge.

"Kyaa!?"

The Lux Sagita launched by Lily fly in separate directions and easily follows all the fairies and pierces them.

Unlike the time she shot at Sariel, Lily lowers the power to the level that even if it hits the fairies it only smashes their barrier.

The fairies are blown off due to the impact and fall down towards the fountain one by one.

Lily while floating looked down on them as they fell and created splashes like frogs jumping in a pond.

"UUuu....."

The fairies only had their body wet due to water, but no one suffered even an injury.

They stand up from the water, and the moment they try to attack Lily

"GyAAAAAaaa!"

A sorrowful cry comes out.

Lily pierces the right palm of the leader at pin point with her extremely small arrow.

The fairy with the appearance of an antique doll and the size of her palm is just some centimetres.

The arrow pierces in a straight line, meaning there is no tracking ability added in it.

“Aaaaa, It hurts! It damn hurts!!”

The fairies come back to their senses, and run towards the leader writhing in pain.

Their aim is naturally, to use healing magic.

The fairies thought, that luckily the injury was not big enough to blast off the arm so it can be easily healed.

“It’s bad for all of you to not pay attention to the enemy, you know?”

Lily’s second arrow hits the fairy in the lead running towards the leader to cast healing magic.

The point the arrow hit, was the same as the leader the right hand palm.

The number of people crying and struggling on the water’s surface increases to two.

The fairies split in two groups due to an increase in the injured person.

“Total failures, even a rank 1 adventurer has better movements compared to you.”

Lily piercing at the same point two times meant that the speed at which the fairies were flying was enough for her to hit them at any spot without even using the automatic tracking ability.

Lily, with a disgusted face, shoots down the right palm of each fairy approaching the two injured people.

There were 10 fairies writhing in pain on the water’s surface even before they knew it.

“It’s like a child’s play, did you people really think of fighting me with that level? Hey, did you guys really think about killing me?”

Lily approaches the still crying leader and sits in a crouching position while floating.

“The next shots will be directed to your left palm, then your right leg, and then your left leg”

“Uuuuguuuu~~”

“Do you still intend to fight? If you want me too, I’ll shoot them all at once”

“Guuuu, I-I will kill yoooouuuu!”

“Then, I’ll shoot.”

A small flash of light flickered.

During the moment, just as Lily declared, a hole opened inside her left hand.

“Aaaaaaaaaa!!”

“Do you still intend to fight?”

“Uaaaaa, Wai—”

“Time to shoot again”

A flash of light flickered again.

A hole opened up on the back of her right leg.

“Ah——”

“ “ Please stop !! “ “

Other fairies who floated in the surroundings, cried all at once.

“Did you guys really think I’ll let you guys die without tasting any pain?”

However, the light had already been launched from Lily.

“.....”

When the back of both her hands and legs were shot through, she leaked a voice of agony that didn't seem to be her voice anymore.

As Lily heard the cries and shouts of the fairies telling her to stop, she remarked with an indifferent tone.

“When you can't even use healing magic just due to the pain inflicted from the bullets, don't even think of fighting, because of you people it took me needless time.”

Lily stands up as she stretched out her knees in the air.

And, turns her back on the fairies.

“You can fly, am I right? Then, go away quickly. Or, do you want to see the moment when the “divine protection” of this ground disappear?”

The fairies somehow carried the leader who was suffering more pain than them and took her way while leaking out a faint light.

“From the beginning, if she did what she had been told to, it wouldn't have lead to this painful selection. Still, with this, my grudge against her for driving me out of here has been cleared up.”

Though it was not directed to anyone, Lily muttered something, then, she was wrapped in a fairy barrier as it became a dazzling globe of light. Following this, she began to slowly sink into the fountain.

She sunk inside the fountain to take the Queen Beryl enshrined inside it.

CHAPTER 64

THE FOUNTAIN OF LIGHT (2)

After some time, silence returned to the forest.

“They have stopped attacking.”

“.....So it seems.”

To the words spoken by the magician beside him, Corvus replied.

The search party led by Corvus to the Fairy garden to find the fountain of light had, as expected, entered into a fight with fairies.

Till just now, both sides were attacking each other with magic and the sounds and flashes of explosions had been shaking the forest.

But, for some reason, the fairies suddenly retreated back inside the forest.

The fairies had run while showing their backs, but their flying speed was not something humans could keep up with especially in this forest where the footing was bad.

“Could it be a trap?”

“It’s difficult to think that fairies can set up a trap. It might be simply a way rebuild their attack force by pulling back for now.”

Corvus himself had no experience of fighting against fairies, but he had some knowledge.

Comparing the knowledge in his head with the current situation, he guessed their actions and behaviours.

“As we go deeper inside, the thick magical energy would make them stronger, so they might be waiting to ambush us deep inside. It’s hard to think that they’ll use a trap or

surprise attack though. We'll advance in as planned, but don't drop your guard and keep a check on the surroundings."

"Roger!"

The soldiers spread out give their assent to Corvus's order.

The many magicians and the few soldiers here were the elites chosen from the subjugation army led by Kievan.

Even in this forest with bad footing, under Corvus's instructions and orders, they maintained a perfect file without any disorder and kept moving forward. Their abilities were also shown when they came out of the battle with the fairies with only slight injuries.

Of course, the rain of magic attacks by fairies will only get stronger and harsher from here onwards, and even they will not be able to finish this without a few casualties.

But, there was not a single one who showed fear on his face. They simply moved towards the centre in silence while keeping the surroundings in check as ordered.

And as they continued moving, deep inside the forest a huge flash was seen accompanied with a loud sound of an explosion, and suddenly the soldiers were filled with tension.

But in the end, the attack did not come from anywhere.

While in doubt, they finally passed the forest and reached the fountain of light.

"oo, this is the fountain of light!"

"Yes, no doubt about it."

In front of the mystical scene in front of them, all of the soldiers gulped.

The fountain was round in shape, and was so clear that it was completely transparent.

And, wondrously, there were no trees around it. Instead, multi coloured flowers were blooming.

Certainly, it was the living place of the fairies only seen in fairy tales.

But rather than the scenery, considering that all the water there was holy water, for a believer of the church it was nothing less than gold itself.

A quantity that was invaluable for a single soldier or magician.

“.....This is strange.”

But rather than relief on finding it, Corvus was having an extremely uncomfortable feeling right now.

Strange, when he spoke so, the magician beside him also realized it.

“We are not being attacked.”

Could it be, that they were surrounding us without us even realizing? Or so they suspected but they could not sense any presence from the surroundings no matter what.

Just where did those fairies disappear to?

“What should we do?”

“Let’s see, check the surroundings——“

The moment Corvus said that, the centre of the fountain suddenly started shining red.

Due to the sudden change, they all entered battle positions, and put all their concentration towards it.

The red light seemed to be ascending towards the surface of the water.

A feeling of something with an immense magical energy was rising to the surface could be sensed by not only the magicians but even Corvus as well.

With ripples, and shining brilliantly, finally that ‘something’ appeared.

That moment, the Crusaders forgot everything and had been captivated by the person in front of them.

“””Beautiful.”””

Someone, no, everyone spoke so.

Yes, the person that appeared from the lake was beautiful.

A bishoujo with shining platinum blonde hair and emerald green eyes.

The 2 pair of wings on her back shone in 7 colours, and every time it flickered, a rich wave of magical energy was spread out.

Her faintly shining white body was covered with a cloth that was as black as the night itself. The contrast between the black and white further supported that existence and its beauty.

And on her chest was a red gem that was giving a off a deep crimson shine.

“It’s a goddess.”

There was no better word to describe her.

The goddess appearing from the lake was something that appeared quite a lot of times in the culture of Arc continent.

A lost traveller, a hero seeking a holy sword to defeat demons, a pair of brother and sister abandoned by their parents, inside the fairy tale, they would meet her.

And the goddess that appears in any fairy tale or story, the most common feature was her unparalleled beauty.

At this moment, it was only obvious that they would associate her to the goddess that appeared in their stories.

“You people are the Crusaders——”

The girl spoke towards the dumbfounded soldiers.

It was a voice so transparent that it reached the depths of the heart but,

“Greed filled filthy humans, ufufu, you’ll make a good opponent for a trial run.”

Different from the stories, she will not be compassionate towards them,

“Die without leaving even a single piece.”

She simply cruelly sentenced them all to death.

“All members, take defensive measures!!!”

Corvus shouted while raising his sword.

Sensing the immense magical energy and bloodlust from her, he prepared for battle.

“fufu, too slow.”

As the girl elegantly dropped the hem of her one piece black dress, 2 white lights flickered.

DON!!

As Corvus thought that the flash had passed him, a splash blood spread behind him.

“Wha——-“

As he looked back, the two magicians that were about to use defensive magic on his orders had their heads cleanly disappear and their robes had been dyed in blood.

While he was surprised, the 3rd one, then 4th, one by one, the white light pierced the heads of the magicians and in an instant turned into headless corpses.

Before he realized, 1/3rd of the magicians had become corpses.

He had never seen someone who could use an attack magic as strong as this used without even a single reaction, chant or any other preparation.

Although young, Corvus could be said to have had a high amount of experience and skills, but this girl’s attack magic was completely outside of his knowledge and common sense regarding battles.

That common sense was that a magic required some sort of chant or preparation before using it and a magic that could instantly kill a human could be consecutively used only once or twice.

If magicians could all use one hit kill magics consecutively, there would be no use for soldiers or swordsmen.

“Weak. Humans really are of this low level.”

As the girl said so, defensive magic was finally activated, and the barrier deployed around Corvus and the others.

The white magicians deployed Holy mind protective wall – Lux Wall Defence and the other magicians casted Water stream protective wall – Aqua Wall Defence and Stone protective wall – Terra Wall Defence. A 3 level Tri Shield made by combining 3 defensive magics.

By using different elements, they covered the weakness of the elemental shields and also increased the strength and the defensive ability by 3 times.

On top of it, at the same time as the activation of the Tri Shield, the soldiers along with Corvus had been enchanted with Protect Boost. A magic that increased the physical defence of the person.

As long as the opponent could use insta kill level magic, defensive ability was the highest priority.

Quickly, or so it should have been, the defensive measures of Corvus and others had been used but in that little gap, the opponent had killed 1/3rd of the magicians.

While thinking about even retreating now, Corvus thought of his next move.

(“With this much defensive strength, we won’t get killed in a single attack at least, but the problem is whether we can attain attacking strength enough to kill that girl, no, that monster in the form of that girl.....to have lost so many magicians instantly has made it even difficult.”)

If she could use such high level attacks, then obviously she could also use high level defensive magics as well. And, to destroy a high level defensive magic, they need to use magic and not swords.

Thus, they were currently short on attack power due to losing the magicians so quickly.

“Oh, could it be that you are actually thinking of defeating me?”

But, Corvus had not yet realized that it was an extremely stupid thought.

Or maybe he simply didn’t want to realize and accept that fact.

“To not even understand the difference in strength, you are lower than even animals—“

The girl, as if reciting death itself, started to chant.

“يَهْلِكُ تَحْطُمُ ذُجُومُ تَأَلَقُ”

She had used one hit kill magic without a chant, now, if she was also using a chant as well then just what level of destructive power must be hidden in the attack, they could not even comprehend.

“Obstruct and stop the chanting!!”

On Corvus’s shouting order to attack, and the magicians as well as bow users began firing.

“——fufu, like I said, too slow.”

The arrows, magic, before they could even reach, the girl had completed her chant decided to first take care of the attacks coming towards her rather than instantly attacking them.

Although, all she did was wait as the attacks were blocked simply by the fairy barrier – Oracle Shield that she had already deployed.

The girl only watched as the flames or the arrows of light extinguished in front of her.

As the attacks finally ended, the girl opened her mouth to end this battle that couldn’t really be called a battle in the first place.

“Bye Bye humans, die while regretting the fact that you obstructed ‘us’.”

The girl raised her right arm and above the soldiers, a magic circle drawn with light appeared.

A complex design with a circle as the base, that the magicians below had never seen, appeared in the sky.

They did not know that it was a magic with strength similar to that of a dragon breath that had made even Sarel use her strongest defensive magic.

“—Meteor Strike.”

The girl’s right hand swung downwards.

From the magic circle, a 7 coloured giant mass was released and fell on the squirming humans below to crush them.

The reinforced defensive magic, that will never break—

Yes, everyone thought that, but at this moment there was no one who tried to insist on it again.

“aa, oh God.....”

They could only pray, for the lives that would never be saved, towards God.

And their greed, wishes, shouts, and pain were all swallowed by the 7 coloured light—

DODON!!!

Annihilated, without leaving even a single trace.

“un, nice shot ♪!”

With wide smile, the girl felt neither guilt nor regret in killing the men there.

It was truly a fairy like, charming smile.

“Now then, I’m worried about Kurono as well. Let’s go and help him. It seems it was too late for Irz village but whatever, it can’t be helped.”

And thus, after leaving a crater of diameter 50m, the girl left the fountain of light to meet her beloved man.

CHAPTER 65

DEVIL

Kurono first killed the 3 crusaders acting away from the village.

He lopped off the heads of the two soldier from the rear with the “Tsujigiri” in his hand and they instantly die.

Just when the third soldier catches the figure of Kurono in complete black attire, he was bisected from the crown of head to the solar plexus in one go.

Kurono takes the oil, the soldiers were going to use to burn the house down and poured it onto the corpses of the goblin family and burned them along with the house.

He couldn't come up with any other better way for their funeral.

Naturally, he didn't dispose of the corpses of the three soldiers and rushed towards the centre of the village, in a straight line without hiding himself.

From then to the time he reached the gate, Kurono thoroughly killed every soldier that came assaulting him.

He chopped off the head of the people who attacked him with the hatchet and blew off the heads of those who try to escape.

The chainmail worn by soldiers is of no use to either of the attacks, they are all annihilated even before they could understand what happened to them.

And by the time Kurono reached the gates, the main force stationed in the centre of the village finally noticed that they were being attacked by someone.

At the same time a messenger ran to Kievan, and even before he could give orders, the commanding officer immediately starts moving to intercept the assailant.

However, without even a magician's support and them only being some infantrymen taking Kurono as an opponent was their last mistake.

After all, the Original Magic used by Kuro no, especially the “Magic Bullet” can instantly kill normal a infantryman and it can also be fired rapidly with tremendous speed.

It is exactly just like a machinegun strafing.

The moment the soldiers rush in front of Kuro no holding spears in their hands, the true value of “Magic Bullet” is revealed.

“Bullet Art – Full Burst” [ET: Atleast he is too OP for normal people.]

The thousand bullets fired by Kuro no rush at once towards the Crusaders.

By the time they realised the difference in power and the bad affinity against the magician in black clothes, there were already many corpses scattered on the road.

“wha, wha. What the hell is that guy!?”

The commanding officer upon looking a black clothed magician suddenly appearing at the gates of village and killing all of the the soldier under his command, he unintentionally speaks out a complaint in a withering voice.

“God Damn it, we didn’t hear anything about a monster like that living here—hiii!”

The mysterious black attack magic that killed his men, passes through him with a distance of paper breadth.

“Co, Commander! Please give the instructions!”

Hearing the voice of his men waiting for order which seemed like screams, a little bit of calmness returns to the commander.

True enough, seeing the scene of an entire group of infantrymen holding spears massacred before they could even reach the only enemy, the commanding officer and every other person present at the place was struck with fear and shock.

“B, Bows! Use the bows!”

The commanding officer who now feared attacking once again with spears, inevitably takes the measures for attacking the opponent without approaching him.

The opponent is still standing in the middle of the of the road, without any shield as if asking for them to shoot him to death.

Furthermore, they still have several tens of soldiers left, the difference in numbers is great.

“Thats right, calm down, that bastard is, no matter how you look at it, a magician, without a vanguard he can’t concentrate on his magic.” [ET: Duh, he just used the damn bullets with just the keywords no damn long chants. Otaku world logic]

The magician attacks while being on the rear, that is the same with adventurers and soldiers too.

According to this theory, if a magician appears out of nowhere without even a tank (aggro based classes of MMORPG) he would be able attack first but when we start attacking, he won’t be able to counterattack.

Even if he blocks the attack with defense magic, he can only buy a little more time.

“Alright, Firee!”

On the order, the arrows fly at full speed towards the black clothed magician.

Just before the arrows reach the enemy, a jet black rectangle like object, that seemed like the night sky had been frozen inside of it, appeared and it intercepted the first barrage of arrows.

But that action is just as they expected, if it’s a magician he would definitely use the defense magic Guard. [ET: umm where did this guard go when he was fighting sariel][SK: Kurono’s shield doesn’t do shit against Sariel’s attacks so he decided not to waste magical energy on shields.]

The arrows are all reflected back due to the hardness of the jet black square.

“Don’t Falter! Keep on firing!”

Without being shaken, the soldiers fire the arrows rapidly.

They soon realized that the jet black square is very hard as even after getting struck from all the arrows, it is not getting even a scratch.

But it is a common knowledge for soldiers that the defense magic doesn't last for eternity, on the contrary it only lasts for a very little time.

The moment the magic effect appears, the magical power also starts gradually dispersing in the surrounding air.

Unless the magic with preservation effects like "Eternity" is casted, the phenomenon created by the magic won't last for a long time.

Therefore, no matter how much hard a defense magic is, at the most it will start disintegrating in several minutes.

Without waiting for it, the arrows continuously barraging his defense will pierce through it when the magical power decreases and hardness declines.

(That's right, what is there to be afraid, the things a single magician can do are limited. Die! while regretting that you came attacking us even as a joke!)[ET: does he know that line is a definite death-flag for person who says it. source: Wisdom!]

With his victory convinced in front of the frightening enemy, the commander's face expresses a distorted smile due to arousal and nervousness.

"Alright, alright, it's going good, just like this—"

The moment he was going to say the black clothed magician moved.

"A. a frontal assault!?"

That's right the enemy started a frontal assault while deploying the Shield.

Furthermore, his speed is not that of a normal person.

It has surpassed the level of speed of a normal person just like the support magic 'Speed Burst' or enhancement martial art 'Air Walker'.

"A magician doing a frontal assault without any aid, it's so foolish—"

Seeing an unforeseen opponent in front of him the commander cannot make plans to deal with the enemy closing up the distance with tremendous speed.

As a result, the soldier keep on firing the arrows at him.

But with the hardness still effective on the shield, not even one arrow passes through it.

“oOAAAAAAaa!!”

With not more than 10 metres remaining between them, the magician roars in a loud voice which even vibrates the eardrums like an electric shock.

When faced by the roar, strength and the bloodlust gushing out, the soldiers falter for a moment.

Immediately the opponent retracts back his shield and swings his baton in his left hand.

DoDoNn!

Something flashing black accompanied with loud consecutive sounds came flying.

That is the bullet made from the black magic, it is futile to count the numerous bullets.

““Gyaaaaa””

The front row soldiers shooting arrows, in front of the storm of bullets, are pierced with holes in their body at the point of impact as if the chainmail and surcoats were just for show.

“D, Draw out your swords!”

It was pitiable voice trembling with fear, in the current situation enemy had come close in that the bows are now meaningless. It was a precise order.

The soldiers throw away the bow, and pull out the broadswords hanging on their waists.

The enemy was already in the position that the swords will reach him.

Killing their fear, the soldiers rush out to assault with a do or die determination with their strife instinct at full throttle.

But the singing swords never reach anyone.

“He flew!?”

The enemy that should have been running on the ground, jumps just before coming in their range.

Along with the strong pressure that even earth’s surface is dented, he turned over the black robe and flies above the soldiers.

“A,AAa—-”

The commander realises, that the enemy fluttering in the air, intends to land on the place where he is standing.

“الجل يد منع الدرع—Ice Shield!”

The ice defense magic he has deployed is the fastest and smoothest ever in his whole lifetime,

DoDoNn!

Saved him from the once again fired black bullets.

“”GuHaaAA!””

However, the surrounding soldier all fall down to their knees, due to the rain of bullets falling down on them.

Half died instantly, the rest half are seriously injured, they are in no position to swing a sword and challenge him.

At the current moment, there was not even 1 soldiers within 3 m radius of the commander.

“HaaAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!”

When he passes through the disintegrating ice shield, the demon in the form of man enters his vision.

He raises a sinister looking hatchet, from his whole body a red aura gushes out.

The red eyes of the man pierces through him, it is impossible for him to be sane at the moment.

“A,A,Ua”

The black hatchet swing downwards from the sky, clearly cuts the ice shield into two.

The thick and heavy ice shield falls onto the the ground, and shatters.

Seeing the scene, the already fear struck commanding officer loses the power in his waist and falls down on ground facing upwards.

And, in front of him the magician who cut through his ice shield in single strike was standing.

“H.....e.....y you, don’t kill me.... we are the same human beings, right!?”

“Die” [ET: Love you Kurono saying the perfect line at the perfect opportunity.]

The man swings the hatchet and chops off the right arm of the commander easily.

Along with the blood spurting out, a scream made up of agony and fear echoes.

“Die”

He chops of the left arm too with the returning sword.

On top of chainmail, he had put equipments, but the attacking power of the blade far surpasses its defense power and both are are disconnected.

“Diee!”

In one swoop sideways, the hatchet severs the legs from below the knees.

The commanding officer who got his limbs cut off cruelly; his eyes turned white due to shock, and the foam of blood flows out from his mouth. The man looks towards the already dying commander and swings one more strike.

“DIEEeeEEEEEEE!!”

The hatchet slashes downwards from the crown of head and cuts the steel armor easily, the skull is split in two halves, trampling down the brain, passes through the throat, and keeps on cutting in one strike to the chest area.

The one strike swung with all of his power, certainly and ghastly takes the life of one person.

“It, It’s a Devil.....”

Someone among the soldier muttered so,

The figure of the man surrounded by many soldiers, was that of a ‘devil’ who in a gruesome way killed their commander. There was not even one left who could laugh at this remark.

“E, Escape!”

“A devil’s here! Run away!”

While whining the complaints, the soldiers all run at full speed striving to be the first to escape.

In the current situation, the commander of soldier is dead, the aide who is meant to be the next commander after him is also running while showing his back, there is no one to check on the soldiers in the current place.

“.....Wait right there.”

Nay, there is one person who wanted to stop them.

“Wait, don’t try to escape, you bastards.”

The black magician overcome with anger and holding a hatchet in his hand.

“If I don’t kill each and everyone of you, it won’t called a proper revenge, right?”

The blood colored eyes glare at the running soldiers just like a person who has gone mad.

For not letting even a single person leave from here alive, the demon, Kuroono once again started walking towards the blood-scented Irz Village's centre.

CHAPTER 66

DEVIL VS. PRIEST (1)

As the pale faced messenger finally entered the Guild, Kievan quickly picked his favourite long staff and left the room.

Listening to the report of a black dressed magician that had infiltrated the village, rather than reprimanding the security to have allowed such a thing, he decided to head there himself and take action. It could be said that Kievan was a cool headed commander that could assess the situation well.

“To have come here alone, either he is very confident of his abilities or maybe he is just mad.”

Accompanied by his two disciples on his side, he opened the gate of the guild.

In front of the guild was the central area of the village. A place that had been lively with villagers till yesterday was no just an execution area for the crucifixion of pitiful adventurers.

Currently, the Crusader soldiers had gathered here to form a line of defence.

Behind the line of the soldiers with spears, those who had injured their limbs or just had them completely blown away were receiving treatment and the place was filled with the smell of fresh blood.

“Has he approached this close already?”

Kievan asked the messenger who was kneeling in front of him.

That voice was filled with anger on letting a single man approach this close.

“Yes, the enemy magician was using an unknown magic that was extremely powerful, so without the assistance of our own magicians——”

“Tch, just when our magicians had gone out.”(Kievan)

He unknowingly cursed but decided not to continue and instead think of how to deal with the current situation.

“You said it was a never before seen magic, right? What kind of magic was it?” (Kievan)

“I couldn’t see it clearly but, black, small balls flew around and pierced through even armour and flesh alike.”

It sounded like the low-level dark element magic [Black ball – Death Sagita] but its effect and power were not matching.

In the first place, [death sagita] was not a magic that could pierce through even chain mail. It was a more shock inducing strike type magic.

“It’ll be fine if it was just a simple Boost, but if it’ll be troublesome if it is an Original or Extra magic. Oi, deploy Dual Shield on the whole force.”

Receiving the order, the 2 disciple magicians started their chants.

“”لمنع الحماية نطاق ت و س د ي ع ذ ا ص د عة ب ي ضاء ال جدران“”

The magic invoked was the intermediate level wide range defensive magic [Lux Wall Defense]. The whole file of soldiers was covered with a barrier of light.

With this, they can defend against that long range magic but for the soldiers to attack, they’ll have to leave the barrier.

If the enemy can rapid fire sure-kill magic, then making the soldiers charge him would only increase the victims. Thus,

“The soldiers concentrate only on providing covering fire. We’ll face the enemy magician by ourselves.” (Kievan)

Kievan concluded that if it was not a magician that could deploy defensive barriers individually, he will not be able to face the enemy magician.

Normally, if all the magicians were here, they could put barriers on all the soldiers individually while providing support from the back at the same time, but since they weren’t here, it couldn’t be helped.

If, Kievan was just a Priest and not a white magician as well, there would have been no other means for the army to fight back but he was confident in his ability and skill as a magician.

That is why, even when facing the village's Vigilante corps, and this time as well, he felt neither hesitation nor fear to stand on the front lines.

In fact he believed that it was trial of God to test his faith and so his fighting spirit rose even further.

"A,Ah, he's here!!!"

Someone screamed from among the soldiers.

In the middle of the main street, a single figure was walking calmly as if he was walking in an uninhabited wasteland.

"It's the devil!"

"The devil has come....."

The soldiers became noisy.

After all they just saw more than 100 of their fellow soldiers killed in front of them, it would be weird to not be scared.

"Silence."

Kievan had not directly seen the tragedy that had occurred down the street so he could only think of the soldiers as 'cowards'.

"You bastards can just fire arrows from behind the barrier. The one who'll directly face that is me."(kievan)

The soldiers quieted from the Priest's strong words and silently nocked their arrows on the bows.

"And I will definitely kill that evil magician."

Kievan glared at the enemy who was still far away.

At that moment, as if he had noticed the glare, he raised his face.

Their eyes met.

Even from this distance, Kievan could see his gleaming red eyes.

“Berserk state?.....”(kievan)

As he murmured that, cold sweat appeared on his face.

(“To think I would really have to face a ‘Mad’ guy...”)

Berserk was one of the ‘bad statuses’ of magic.

In the first place, bad statuses were – ‘Poison’ that slowly scrapped away the stamina and vitality, ‘Paralyze’ that took away the freedom of the body and ‘Siesta’ that took away consciousness. They did not damage directly as attack but were abnormalities that slowly affected the body itself.

Berserk is also one of them. Its effect was to turn a person into a brutal killer that did not distinguish between allies and enemies.

On top of that, rise in physical abilities, isolation of pain, and such fearsome effects were also provided.

If a person fell into a berserk state, it attacks even allies along with the increase in strength, so it was highly difficult to stop it.

But, in such a situation where he was alone, the demerit of attacking his own allies was not present, and only the enhanced body strength is received.

Kievan had once faced a person who had fallen into the Berserk state.

He was just a soldier but showed immense toughness and had no choice but to kill him to stop him.

(“This is a troublesome opponent, but—-“)

Kievan walked in front of the soldiers with the bright white long staff in his hand.

“Evil magician who stands against God! You will also die like these demons by crucifixion by my hands!!”

He showed the highest level of fighting spirit with his shout.

(“In the end, Berserk only enhances the physical strength of the person. I won’t lose to an animal that has lost even the ability to talk and understand words!!”)

Knowing the weakness of the Berserk state, Kievan became confident of his victory.

But,

“I see, so you were the one who did it.....”

Kurono’s muttering in a small voice did not reach Kievan’s ears.

CHAPTER 67

DEVIL VS PRIEST (2)

“Evil magician who stands against God! You will also die like these demons by crucifixion by my hands!!”

Behind the commander of the Crusaders here, several crosses were lined up. Pierced by countless arrows, without limbs, bloody tortured corpses had been crucified on them.

The corpse had been brutally damaged, but, I don't move my gaze away, no I can't move it away.

That's because I knew the identity of the corpses very well.

Nino, Harry, Aten.....if Claydor is not here means his body didn't even exist anymore probably.

Other than them, many other people I had always seen in the guild, and even the civilian Nyarko was there, her corpse to be exact——

“I see, so you were the one who did it.....”

My hand holding the hatchet shivered.

From my hand, magical energy flowed, and in return, bloodlust and hatred flowed back inside me.

“You...aaa..aaaaaaaagghaaaaaaa!!!!”

I howl. Only a shout without any meaning leaks from my throat.

I cry. Endless tears flowed from my eyes.

“aaaaaaaaa——”

I won't forgive, I won't forgive, I will never forgive this.

How dare they do something so cruel.

They were my precious friends.

They were all good guys. A suspicious guy like me, they, the whole village accepted me.

Do you know? How precious were they to me? To protect them I would fight with my life, that's right, I even fought against Sarel for them.

Even then, despite all that.....if, if everyone died then, I, I won't be able to fight to protect them anymore.

I, I will——

“aa.....aaaaa.....”

In front of the over atrocious deaths of my friends, the hatchet's thoughts increased even more from my emotions unstable from sadness.

If you are sad, if it hurts, if it's painful, if you hate then——Kill.

“aa.....”

Kill, kill your enemies, without mercy, hesitation or compassion, just cruelly, and gruesomely, keep on killing them all.

“aa that's right——”

Look carefully, my enemies are in front of me.

Then, what I have to do is decided. Definitely, surely, I have decided.

“——I'll avenge all of you.”

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(the POV changes here)

“——-aaaaaaaaaaaaa!!!!”

A howl, of an incredible volume, was released by the black magician.

That shivering sound that resounded from inside the stomach, even while inside the barrier, the soldiers were overcome with fear.

But, even in front of that raging enemy, Kievan did not flinch.

That's because the enemy is in a berserk state. It was easily possible to raise a voice that could crush the throat. That reaction was still inside his expectations. There was no need to be surprised.

“Let's go. Match with me.”

On Kievan's words, the 2 disciples started their chants and it didn't take much time to activate it.

“Concentration enhancement – Conses Boost.”

“Element Boost.”

This was their favourite tactic that they had used even when annihilating the Vigilante Corps.

(“If it's a wide range magic, then even if he's in berserk state, he won't be able to get out of the attack range with one leap.”)

Rather than trying to kill in a single strike, Kievan put more importance on hitting the enemy accurately first.

A person in Berserk state, even if his limb is torn off, or his stomach explodes, as long as it is not a fatal damage, he will not stop moving.

But, even if he didn't die, if he lost his legs, then he wouldn't be able to move either. If he loses his arm, then he won't be able to swing his weapon. Basically it was fine as long as he could make him powerless.

Kievan who had received double enhancements was about to use his [Lux Force Blast], the same magic that had killed the whole Vigilante Corps in a single blow.

On top of it, although Berserk state increased physical strength, it did not increase the defensive abilities. As long as he is unable to evade, he would have no way to defend himself against Kievan's attack.

("Hm, a sane magician might have been able to put up a barrier but he won't be able to make rational decisions with that mad head of his.")

Kievan became confident of his victory, thus, he did not feel like letting him die with just the rain of arrows of the soldiers.

Kievan started a chant only a few seconds long—but before that, the enemy black magician, Kurono moved first.

"—!!"

The voice had not reached his ears, but suddenly, black smoke spread all over the place.

"A smoke screen is useless!!"

Kievan who had completed his chant, just as he said, he believed that it was useless no matter how the enemy struggles.

But, Kievan held a doubt considering the fact that a person in Berserk state took an action except attacking.

That means, the enemy had not yet lost his ability to think yet.

"Lux Force Blast!!"

But, even if he had thought that, there was no reason to cancel his attack now.

Kievan fired his strongest attack in front of him aiming for the invisible enemy hidden inside the thick black smoke.

An extremely hot light spread over the area as if lighting inside the darkness.

In front of that dazzling light, the soldiers turned their faces away and even Kievan himself shut his eyes for a moment.

("It's over.")

As he spoke that inside his mind, an unbelievable sight was in front of him when he opened his eyes.

"haaaaaaaaaaaa!!"

Beneath the black clothes, not just his eyes but his whole body was releasing the red aura of Berserk. The mad magician clad in that aura was standing there.

("What? Uninjured? That's impossible——")

In this different world where science has not advanced, the properties of [light] were not yet known.

In the first place, the effects of light were diminished just by being in the atmosphere. Only in a true void where there are no 'obstacles' can the light show its max effectiveness.

Thus, inside water, mist, steam etc. are able to reduce the effects of light even more than normal atmosphere.

Kurono, by releasing 'black smoke' that possessed particles of 'darkness' that could absorb light, he halved the power of Lux Force Blast, that was basically a laser beam.

And, even if it was an advanced magic, at half of its strength it will not be able to pierce through Kurono's shield.

This was how Kurono remained unharmed. However, Kievan had no way of knowing all this.

But Kievan was an experienced magician who won't be shaken from just this.

Bracing himself, he quickly entered a defensive stance.

“—Lux Argalea Shield!”

Kievan realized that the lumps of black magical energy materializing around Kurono were the ones that pierced through even chain mail.

The distance between them was just a few meters. He was clearly inside his attacking range. And Kievan who just attacked could not attack again so quickly either. So he had no choice but to defend against the enemy's attack.

“”Lux Armour Shield””

The 2 disciples beside him also came to the same conclusion.

“haaaa!!!”

Kurono jumped towards Kievan and at the same time fired his magic bullets.

Its aim was, the 2 magicians supporting Kievan.

BAGIN!!

The black full metal jacket bullet struck the barrier of light but did not pierce through.

The moment the 2 thought that they had successfully defended, their heads burst open.

The hands that were raised to the front to use the barrier went limp and fell down face up.

They had no idea how the bullets, they had supposedly defended against, pierce through.

No, maybe they didn't even realize that had already died.

As to why the two had died, only Kurono and Kievan knew.

(“He hit the exact same point again.....how can his aim be so accurate even under Berserk state?.....”

Kievan clearly saw Kurono fire another bullet on the exact same point where the first bullet had hit to break through the barrier.

If it was just once then he might have considered it a coincidence, but to have it two at the same time in the same way, he had no choice but to believe that this black magician possessed immaculate aim that he retained even under Berserk state.

Kievan had started losing his composure from this chain of unbelievable events.

But he couldn't just retreat now.

“Dieeeeeeeeeee!!!”

In front of the enemy that was shouting curses and swinging a giant hatchet, he couldn't retreat even if he wanted to.

(“That's right. I can't fall back here. Against this, this evil magician that is a devil incarnate, I, a priest of God must not lose, I cannot lose!!”)

In front of the approaching evil blade, Kievan put all his magical energy in the barrier and fervently prayed.

“Oh God, grant me the strength to destroy this evil!!”

The black cursed blade, finally swung down on the holy shining white shield.

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“Dieeeeeeeeeee!!!”

Holding the cursed hatchet with my both hands, I swing it with full strength.

“Of God——”

The priest was screaming something.

GAGIIIIINNNN!!!

But his voice was drowned by the loud noise of the blade striking the shield.

(“Shit, it’s hard!!”)

The black blade only pierced inside the shield of light slightly and doesn’t seem to move any further.

This priest, although nowhere near Sarii’s level, but he is still a strong white magic user. I guess he wasn’t the commander just for show.

But, no matter how strong he is, I must kill him here no matter what.

“That’s why, more, give me more powweeeeeeeeerrrrrrrrrr!!!”

And so, the cursed hatchet [Tsuigiri] responded to my wish.

[ooooooooo]

The black blade clearly raised a ‘voice’.

At the same time, from my hands, an incomparable amount of magical energy was sucked.

I started to lose the sensation of my fingers but rather getting weaker, the strength behind the swing of the hatchet got stronger.

Whether it was blood or magical energy, I don’t know, but inside my vision that was filled with red mist, I clearly saw the shape of the black blade changing.

(“I see, this is—-”)

After sucking the blood of the numerous Crusaders and eating my black magical energy and hatred, the cursed hatchet [Tsuigiri] was,

(“Evolving!”)

It evolved into Grudge Hatchet – [Hararetsu/Harakiri].(T/N: not sure how to translate 腹裂 lit. means stomach cutter/ripper)

“haaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!!”

Having changed into an even more sinister form, the black blade began cutting the barrier.

“Impossible!? This is——”

The priest looked with fright as the power of the blade increased with the change in shape.

The hatchet’s evolution not only increased the sharpness of the blade but also increased the amount of physical enhancement provided.

And that’s not all. Uptil now, using the hatchet became easier naturally just by holding it, but now it even allowed the activation of a [Martial art] skill.

“Kuronagiiiiiiiiiii!!” (T/N: lit. Black calm)

Leaving a black trace, it was a single horizontal flash.

The martial art [Kuronagi] that struck with immense slashing power, easily cut through the Priest’s body along with his shield in two.

Ripping his stomach open, the Priest’s upper half flew in the air.

Without even trying to dodge, as I bathed in the shower of blood, I heard the voice of the priest that had been put to death.

“Oh God.....Why have you.....forsaken me.....”

CHAPTER 68

RELEASE CURSE

The Crusaders froze on the spot.

“aaa.....Priest-sama was.....”

Someone muttered. The soldiers, even in confusion, clearly understood what happened in front of them.

Everyone had seen Kievan use the advance level light magic the moment the black smoke spread all over.

The soldiers had also believed that attack to have ended it along with the caster himself.

But, before they could even raise the cheer for victory, that devil jumped out of that smoke while releasing a howl that sent shivers down the spine.

The battle was truly concluded in the next few seconds.

The devil used the black bullets that had killed countless of their comrades and shot the heads of the 2 magicians.

By the time those two magicians fell to the ground, the devil had already swung his sinister looking black blade towards the Priest.

The devil's roar, the Priest's prayer and the sound of the blade cutting the barrier of light away, all came at the same time.

And the next moment, the Priest's body was ripped into 2 pieces and the blood stained upper body flew in the air.

“The Priest-sama died.....”

“The devil killed him.....”

Unrest spread among the soldiers.

Kievan, even though young, was extremely skilled as a commander and not to mention that he was also a skilled white magician that did not fear fighting on the front lines himself. Thus he had gained much trust from his subordinate soldiers.

And a mind that idolized God and his confident personality, all combined with his skills gave a special kind of charisma.

And that trusted superior was easily killed in front of them.

Losing their fighting spirit, the soldiers would soon start panicking and running away.

“Calm down!!”

But, due to one squad commander’s shout, the soldiers stopped.

“Look, after fighting Priest-sama, the devil is exhausted!!”

Sure enough, the black figure currently had his one knee on the ground.

“We can kill him now! Avenge the Priest-sama!!”

Strength returned in the arms of the soldiers holding the weapons.

“The effect of the barrier is still there, we shall shoot that devil to death!!”

Even if the caster dies, the effect of magic doesn’t disappear instantly.

Currently, as long as the magical energy of the barrier deployed doesn’t exhaust, it’s effect won’t disappear.

“””Kill the devil!”””

As if trying to shake off their fear, the soldiers shouted in chorus.

“”Kill the devil! Kill the devil!!””

Nocking their arrows, the strings were pulled to the max.

“Ready your aim!”

The long bows and crossbows aimed towards the target.

The devil had not yet moved.

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“haa....haa.....”

After cutting apart the priest with [Kuronagi], I was struck with extreme tiredness.

This is due to over exhaustion of magical energy used during the evolution of the hatchet rather than the backlash of using the martial art.

I faced this condition numerous times during those manoeuvring experiments so I didn't faint instantly due to experience, but to become like this in the current situation is a bit troublesome.

No, facing a priest that could use advance level magic, there was chance that I would have even sustained injuries as well. It's thanks to the hatchet evolving that I was able to win easily.

But that doesn't change the fact that the condition is getting worse.

Those soldiers are still ready to fight even after seeing their superior killed.

They are shouting [Kill the devil]. Fucking bastards! The devils here are you bastards!

No matter how much I curse, it doesn't change the fact that countless arrows are going to be shot at me any moment.

“haa.....shit!”

Even though I said to Lily that we shouldn't be reckless, but look at me now.

My magical energy is completely empty. Well at least my body is still unscratched.

“Sorry Lily, it looks like I’ll break my promise…….”

Although I promised that I won’t be reckless after fighting Sarel, to have broken the promise this quickly, I really am a pathetic guy.

“But, these guys—-“

The sensation returned to my fingers and I once again gripped the handle of the blade tightly.

“Just these guys, I can’t let any of them get away.”

I don’t know whether I would be able to kill all those soldiers without any magical energy.

No matter how sturdy this body is, if I lose too much blood, I will die. If my head was cut, of course I will die. But still, I won’t step back.

I’ll keep on killing.

Even if it’s just one more, I’ll drag these bastards to hell!!

“Uooooooooohhh!!!!”

From the evolved hatchet, the torrent of hatred and bloodlust started flowing inside me again.

Forcibly putting strength in this body that’s screaming for rest, I jump back to my feet.

A countless amount of arrows rush towards me.

I don’t have enough energy to deploy my shield again. I can only defend by swinging my hatchet.

Resolving myself to get hit many times, I swing the hatchet to at least deflect as many as I can. At that moment,

DODODOO!!!

In front of me, a bright red flame burst out.

What the hell is this? Enemy's attack magic? Did something explode?

But in front of the spreading crimson flames, when I thought I would die,

“.....this is, defensive magic?”

I wasn't taking any damage from this magic. On looking closely, the flame isn't randomly rising from the ground, it's shaped like a proper wall.

To create a wall of flame this big, it must be the advance level wide range defensive magic [Ignis Rampart Defence].

Anyway, whatever magic it may be, the wall of flame devoured all the arrows that were coming towards me and protected me.

But, just who was it that used such an advanced magic—— the only one I could think of was my only ally and partner Lily.

“That was close.”

The voice that came from behind me was a transparent voice of a woman, but I instantly knew that it was not Lily's.

“Wh,Who is it.....?”

As I looked back, a black shadow was walking towards me with light steps.

No, that isn't a shadow but clothes that are black from head to toe similar to me.

A three-cornered hat like those in fairy-tales, a jet black robe adorned with soft feathers, a weirdly shaped long staff, and light blue hair and golden shining eyes.

I had met only once, but the name of the person in that unforgettable unique dress is,

“Fiona Soleil!?”

“I wanted to meet you, Mr. Icecandy.”

“Ic, Ice.....?”

Due to her sudden appearance, I forgot the situation I was in after looking at her usual semi-closed expressionless eyes and her weird words.

“Ah, before I forget I’ll release your curse alright?”

“What?”

What the hell is she even saying? As I doubted, Fiona began moving her lips and small chant was heard.

“مشرقة الشر الظلام طرد—[Release Curse – Dispel]”

“!?!”

The moment the words of release curse came to my ears, I suddenly dropped the hatchet that had felt like a part of my own hand till now.

The moment the hatchet fell on the ground, I fell to my knees like a puppet that had its strings cut.

With the enhancement provided by the hatchet, I was able to keep on standing even without having any magical energy left inside me. So it was the natural what would happen if I lost it.

I thought that I would fall to the hard ground but I was taken in and embraced by the soft arms of a person instead.

Hugged by the witch’s chest, my vision was filled with the dark robe and I was unable to see her face. In the first place, I didn’t even have the energy to even move my head.

“You sure like to use dangerous things. It was a light Berserk state.”

“.....thanks to it I was able to kill the Priest.”

I can’t move my body, but was somehow able to speak.

“Are you here to save me?”(kurono)

“Yes.”(Fiona)

“Thanks, but this place is dangerous. Fiona-san should run away quickly. I won’t resent you even if you leave me here.”

“Then we’ll lose our meaning to come here.”

‘We’? Who else is——

“Look, adventurers have come to save the village.”

As Fiona-san lifted me, the place where the wall of fire was now,

“a,aa……”

A group of strong adventurers of different races were standing there.

“1 gold for 1 kill!!”

“hyaaa ha, I’ll hunt all these bastards!!!”

The adventurers roared and attacked the remaining Crusaders.

Having lost their commander as well as all the magicians, the group of humans, no matter what the number, can never win against these adventurers.

They were pushed this far just by me alone. Having realized that it had become hopeless for them now that reinforcements had come, the soldiers began running away while showing their backs.

“.....Fiona-san.”

“What is it?”

“I leave the rest, to you……”

With the scene of victory in sight, I finally felt relief and fell asleep.

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“I leave the rest, to you.....”

Having left those words, Kurono lost his consciousness in Fiona’s arms.

Fiona firmly held Kurono’s large and heavy body with her slender arms.

In the surroundings, the sounds of cries raised by the running Crusaders and the chasing adventurers resounded.

Within that carnage, the figure of Fiona gently holding Kurono looked like some famous painting.

But, there was one single person that did not approve of it.

“Get away from Kurono.”

Pretty yet somewhat cold voice of a girl reached Fiona’s ears.

When she raised her head, out of nowhere, a girl with rainbow coloured wings was standing there.

Lily who had left the fountain of light, had reached Irz village, or rather, to the place where Kurono was.

“.....who are you?”

“That’s enough. So hurry up and get away from him.”

Lily wasn’t directing clear bloodlust, but even the air-headed Fiona understood that her words contained a thorny nuance.

But, even if it was any another woman than Fiona, she would not have understood that it was due to a simple personal reason like – ‘I will not let any woman other than me embrace Kurono’.

“Here you go.”(Fiona)

In any case, Fiona quietly handed Kurono back to Lily who had landed in front of her.

Lily, just like the time when fighting Sarel, easily carried Kurono.

And finally now that Kurono was completely handed over to Lily did she show her usual fairy like smile to Fiona.

“You were quicker than expected, that really helped, Thank you.”(Lily)

“It’s our job after all.”(Fiona)

“That’s certainly true for the Vigilante corps and the adventurers of Kuar village, but is it the same for you who came from Arc continent as well?”

“.....so you knew?”

“You didn’t really try to hide it either right? After all, the guild card you showed to Kurono was not of this continent.”

“Ah, could it be, that you are the fairy that was with Kurono-san back then?”

“You realized that just now?”

“You really are pretty.”

Lily took a deep sigh. Now that she thought about it, she was out of sync even back then while talking with Kurono.

“That’s enough about me. More importantly, are you an enemy? Or an ally?”(Lily)

“Lily let out a slight killing intent, but Fiona normally replied with her usual expressionless face.

“I’m a rank 1 adventurer now.”(Fiona)

And just like that time, from beneath her hat, she took out a plate and gave it to Lily.

That was without a doubt a guild card of Pandora continent.

“Are you a traitor towards humans?”(lily)

“I just came to Pandora continent as a mercenary. But the food wasn’t good so I resigned.”

“.....I see.”

Lily felt stupid to have been alert and cautious against this half asleep witch.

Lily who could read minds knew that her reactions and responses weren’t an act.

At this moment too, Fiona is still thinking about Ice candy. Lily, due to her telepathic powers, understood that even if she didn’t want to.

“Well it’s fine. I’ll let you eat as much icecandy as you want as long as you don’t betray us.”

“Really? It’s a promise then.”

Seeing Fiona bend forward and stick her face closer, Lily regretted making a hasty decision for a second.

(“ But, turning this woman into an enemy will be troublesome. If she is going to stay as an adventurer the it’s better to leave it like that.”)(lily)

Lily had seen the wall of fire that saved Kurono.

And the true identity of that magic, neither Kurono nor the adventurers had realized, except Lily who had been watching from above.

It was not [Ignis Rampart] that Kurono thought. In the first place, it was neither a wide range magic nor an advance level magic.

It was just a simple lower level defensive magic [Ignis Shield].

(“It’s obvious that even the same magic will be different when used by different people, but, to display that much strength with just a low level magic, this wasn’t just a matter of talent.”)

Whether it was a talent of inhumane level, or was it a special technique or maybe she was born with some special constitution. But whatever it was, Lily realized that this witch called Fiona possessed a fearsome level of magic ability.

It's fortunate that Fiona didn't possess an evil mind like an actual 'witch' and instead was just a glutton.

"For such a weird witch to exist, this world really is a vast place." (lily)

As Lily breathed a sigh out of exhaustion, she moved towards the nearby guild to let Kurono rest easily.

Behind her, the black witch who was thinking of the sweet taste of Ice candy also followed.

